



**Price of a barrel
of petroleum**
US\$ 68.09
0.35↓

INSIDE TODAY

WORLD NEWS

HARD TIME

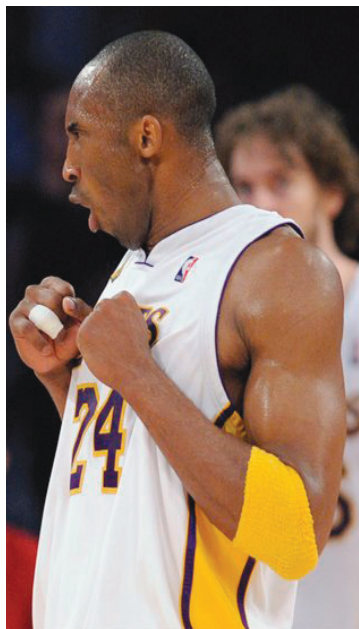


Journalist Lisa Chung speaks at a rally on the steps of City Hall in San Francisco, Wednesday, June 3, 2009 during a protest against North Korea's detention of American journalists Laura Ling and Euna Lee, reporters for California-based Current TV media venture.

See *INTERNATIONAL NEWS*

SPORTS NEWS

LAKERS UP 2-0



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) reacts to a play against the Orlando Magic during the first half of Game 2 of the NBA basketball finals Sunday, June 7, 2009, in Los Angeles.

See *Sports Today*

Emergency Medical Services receives "ChuChubi"

ORANJESTAD - The Emergency Medical Services Foundation Aruba (EMS Aruba) received their 'ChuChubi' radios at Zenitel Aruba N.V. this past week.

EMS Aruba is a foundation that consists of volunteers specializing in first aid. The presence of EMS Aruba is usually requested for social or athletic events for example concerts, drag race, cycling, walk-a-thon and such.

EMS Aruba primarily is to aid in conjunction with other volunteering and/or governmental organizations in situations that requires such.

Keeping in mind that we are entering Hurricane season they have been steadily working towards acquiring ChuChubi radio's from Zenitel. Armed with these the volunteers of

EMS Aruba will be able to communicate with each other in case of an emergency.

The Motorola MTH800 of ChuChubi is based on the TETRA technology and functions on the Zenitel network. Its coverage extends across the entire island and over the Aruban waters. Functioning on separate generators, this network will remain operational even in case of power failure. These radio's offer a high-resistance in though environmental conditions and very long battery-life.

EMS would like to thank in particular Banco di Caribe, RBTT y Zenitel for recognizing the importance of these devices and their subsequent assistance in partially covering the costs of

13.3% decline in number of visitors

Aruba continues to strive despite economic setbacks

ORANJESTAD - In March 2009, money supply went up by Afl. 41.6 million (1.4 percent) to Afl. 3,028.1 million. This increase was brought about by an Afl. 38.2 million expansion in net domestic assets and an Afl. 3.4 million net inflow of funds from abroad. Consequently, net foreign assets (excluding revaluation differences of gold and foreign exchange holdings) rose to Afl. 1,433.5 million at the end of March 2009, which is Afl. 559.4 million or 64 percent more than the amount recorded in the corresponding month of 2008.

The growth in net domestic assets was largely caused by an Afl. 28.5 million expansion in noncredit related balance sheet items, reflecting in part clearing transactions within the banking system.

In addition, net claims of the banking sector on the public sector went up by Afl. 22.4 million (7.7 percent). In contrast, claims of the banking sector on the private sector, which have been declining since December 2008, fell by Afl. 12.7 million (0.5 percent), following decreases in loans to enterprises, consumer credit, and housing mortgages of Afl. 7.4 million (0.7 percent), Afl. 4.3 million (0.7 percent), and Afl. 0.9 million (0.1 percent), respectively.

In March 2009, the real turnover tax revenue (BBO) dwindled by 1.5 percent, for the third consecutive month, compared to March 2008. The figures used here are based on the BBO collected in April, which is indicative of turnover mostly generated in the previous month.



them.

The foundation appreciates the collaboration as it alleviates the financial strain and thus aiding in EMS Aruba's commitment to volunteering. The organization hopes this gesture will serve as an incentive to other business

owners and the community in supporting it. For more information feel free to contact us at 593-4261 or 566-2627. On the Picture Mr. Johan Richardson of Zenitel, Mrs. Sue-Lan Liao Jen of Banco di Caribe y Mr. Carlos Peterson of EMS Aruba. □

In the first three months of 2009, the real BBO declined by 4.8 percent, compared to the corresponding period of 2008.

Moreover, in March 2009, stay-over visitors continued to debilitate as preliminary figures for that month recorded a 13.3 percent decline in the number of visitors and a 10.7 percent lower total nights spent in Aruba. In the first three months of 2009, stay-over visitors and total nights spent on the island went down by 8 percent and 5.2 percent, respectively (first three months of 2008: +20.6 percent and +17.5 percent).

The average occupancy rate of both hotels and timeshares, reported by the Central Bureau of Statistics, registered a 5.5 percentage points fall to 79.5 percent in March 2009, compared to a year earlier. In the first quarter of 2009, this occupancy rate decreased by 4.7 percentage points to 80.7 percent, compared to the corresponding period of 2008. □

TODAY'S **McCOMBO**
MONDAY TO THURSDAY

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Catch your own dinner with Driftwood!

Motto at Driftwood Restaurant: "From the pier to your plate!"

ORANJESTAD - The downtown marina is home of **Driftwood Fishing Charters**, the successful fishermen of the established seafood restaurant **Driftwood** in Oranjestad.

Driftwood owner Herby Merryweather has a love and passion for fishing. A fisherman who knows about fish, what our local waters have to offer, and what the words



"fresh seafood" really mean. What Herby catches will be served in his restaurant on

the same day. Herby loves to share his fishing passion with the many visitors to the island. His fleet of a 35 ft. Twin Engine Bertram yacht and a 50 ft. Twin Engine Post yacht, appropriately called "Driftwood I and II, is available for charters on a daily basis from 8am to

Catch your own dinner

12 noon and from 1pm to 5pm. A charter includes: captain, mate, all fishing equipment, bait, sodas and bottled water. On a full day charter sandwiches and snacks are also included. You can call Herby directly at (297) 593 4040 or go to www.driftwoodaruba.com.

Rates:

\$380 - 1/2 day
\$760- full day
Rates per boat
Max. 6 people



Winners of Intl. LUHRS Marina Group Blue Marlin Release Tournament 2009

Driftwood Restaurant

This authentic Aruban seafood restaurant is located in characteristic downtown Oranjestad. Their extended

menu has been jubled by many. Driftwood offers daily specials, as well as a delicious 3-course menu for just \$24.

Driftwood Restaurant

Authentic Aruban Seafood Restaurant

Klipstraat 12, Downtown Oranjestad

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www.driftwoodaruba.com

Opening hours: every day, but Tuesdays from 5pm till 10:30pm.



Red Sail Sports Aruba for all sail cruises

Sail with Red Sail Sports Aruba Sunset along Aruba's scenic Coastline



PALM BEACH - Red Sail Sports' catamaran will take you on an unforgettable journey: the Mexican Dinner Sail. Your trip includes a Live Mariachi Band, Mexican Food and an open bar with Tequila, Coronitas and Margaritas. The Mexican Party Sails on Friday from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm.

Aruba's trade winds provide the ideal conditions for sailing aboard Red Sail Sports' top quality, luxurious catamarans.

Set sail and join Red Sail Sports Half Day Luncheon Snorkel Sail or the romantic Sunset Sail. Red Sail Sports also offers a Dinner Sail which combines a sail along Aruba's scenic coastline and a spectacular view of the sunset with a tantalizing buffet catered by award-winning chefs. If you want to discover Aruba's underwater world, be sure to get in touch with Red Sail Sports. Learn to dive in one



day with the Discover Scuba Dive Course, get PADI certified or join us on our daily one and two tank dives. Red Sail Sports is Aruba's lead-ing dive and watersports operator. Activity desks are located at the Hyatt Regency, Marriott Resorts and on Renaissance Island.

To make reservations call 586-1603 or go to www.redsail-aruba.com. Be sure to visit one of Red Sail Sports' stores for the latest in swimwear, beach essentials, T-shirts and souvenirs.

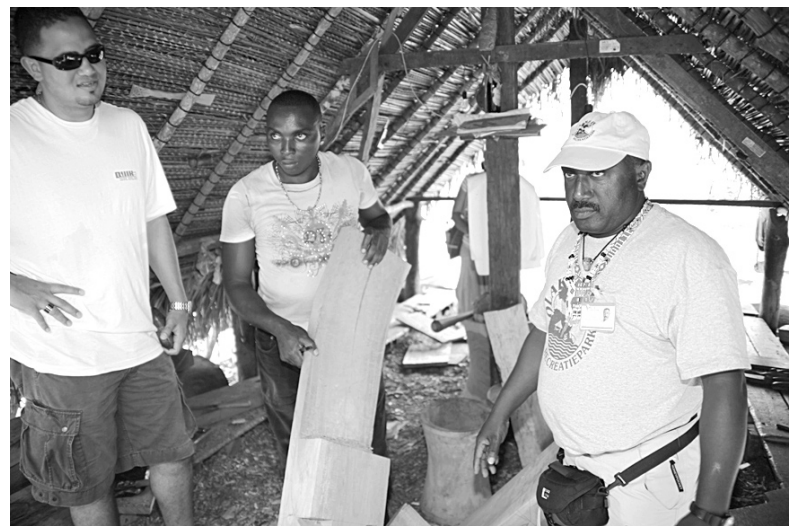
Arubans go to Suriname for familiarization trip

Maduro Travel introduced Suriname to Aruba



“Noodtje” they all checked inn the beautiful Torarica Hotel and later that day they all met for a small cocktail party. In the evening they all got a tour of the night life of Suriname including “The Fat”.

The next day all Aruba travelers enjoyed a small parade in their honor, as part of the fam-trip they visited different hotel collecting their information



ORANJESTAD - Recently Maduro Travel worker and various travel agencies on the Island went on a fam-trip (familiarization) trip to the country of Suriname. They all

visited Suriname for a couple of days flying with Suriname airways. Upon their arrival they were received like royalty by costumes and their tour guide



and what they can offer to the public, they even visited the new Marriott Court yard hotel which is the newest.

Some said even this was a work trip they really enjoyed them self and are sure to go back as tourist to Suriname, who prides it self as a ECO destination.

This group of travelers

would also like to thank Aruba & Suriname: METS Travel&Tours,Toraica Hotel, Residence Inn Hotel, Marriott Hotel Suriname, Cola Creek Recreatie Park, Rudy Baldew Transfers, Indigo Tours Aruba, Surinamse Tour Guide Nootje, Bus Driver Randy, Krasnapolski , HotelRoyal&Torarica.□



The Excelsior Casino Winner's Circle



Everyone is a winner at the Excelsior Casino. The Excelsior Casino is located in the Holiday Inn Resort, a 600 room facility. The Casino has been in existence for 30 years; 50% of our guests come from the United States, 30% from South America and the balance from Europe. The beautiful Excelsior Casino will satisfy your taste for games of chance. One of Aruba's finest casinos, the Excelsior Casino features Las Vegas style gambling of all games of chance as well as a beautiful sports betting area and poker room. The Excelsior Casino is the only casino in Aruba to offer 3-4-5 times odds on Craps and Double Deck Blackjack. Spanish 21 and Blackjack can be dealt out of a shoe at your request. And, most of all, the Excelsior Casino does not hit the soft 17. The Excelsior Casino features the largest Poker Room with limits as low as \$2-\$4 to \$50-\$100 no limit. No need to carry coins to the cashier! The Excelsior Casino's state of the art slot machines are totally Ticket-In, Ticket-Out ☐

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Wok Away Wednesday night on

Hadicurari's healthy, low-fat wok night

PALM BEACH - Healthy does not mean tasteless and low-fat can be truly delicious. These statements are proven beyond any doubt at Hadicurari Restaurant's new Asian Wok Nights on Wednesday evenings, when Dutch chef John Boomkamp ties back his apron strings and woks away on the ocean-view porch. The menu is tantalizing, the price very good: US 30.—per person, kids half-price. The priceless beach front view comes free of charge.

So what's for dinner on Wednesday? Well, a Thai chicken soup and a great salad bar precede a grouper pasta salad, a cabbage/coco salad with lime juice, a spicy mixed vegetable salad and a macaroni pasta salad and prawn crackers. Then the chef can put chicken, beef, shrimps or grouper in the wok for you. This is accompanied by rice noodles, egg or corn noodles or white rice with snow peas, carrots, cabbage, onions, leeks and bean sprouts. Sauces to choose from are green curry, teriyaki, hoi sin, ginger orange, sesame soy, sweet and sour and soy sauce. Wow.

So don't forget: wok away Wednesday night and enjoy! Hadicurari Restaurant is located on the beach of the Marriott Resort next to MooMba Beach. Of course you can also order from the à la carte menu. □



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Player who accumulates the most points (SUNDAY – Friday) receives EXTRA \$500 bonus Friday night

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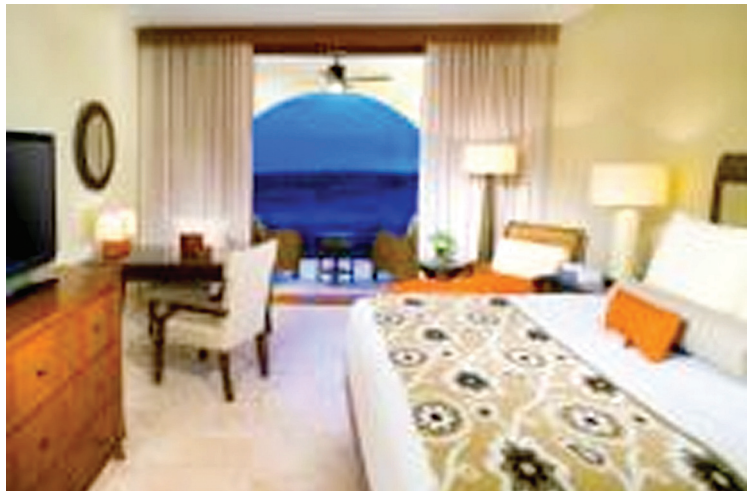


Aruba TODAY

**Don't drink &
DRIVE**



Hyatt Regency Curacao Golf Resort, Spa and Marina to Open January 2010



CHICAGO, IL UNITED STATES - Reservations are now being accepted for the 350-Room Resort on Santa Barbara Plantation, Hyatt's third Caribbean Resort

CHICAGO, June 4 / PRNewswire/ -- Scheduled to open in January 2010, Hyatt Regency Curacao Golf Resort, Spa & Marina, the only resort on the island to offer 18 holes of championship golf, is now accepting reservations. Each of the 350 rooms has a view of the water and is located on one of the few remaining natural preserve peninsulas in the Caribbean offering guests the kind of authentic experience for which Hyatt resorts are known. The resort will feature uninterrupted water views on three sides, white sand beaches, extensive meeting space

and luxurious amenities. Reservations are now being accepted for Hyatt Regency Curacao, Golf Resort, Spa & Marina at 1-800-55-HYATT or at curacao.hyatt.com.) Hyatt Regency Curacao Golf Resort, Spa & Marina is located at Santa Barbara Plantation, a 1,500-acre luxury master planned resort community taking shape along a natural harbor known as Spanish Water, 25 minutes from Curacao's capital city of Willemstad. Santa Barbara Plantation will offer a variety of residences and amenities such as a homeowners' beach club and the 120-slip Seru Boca Marina capable of accommodating vessels up to 80 feet in length. The resort will have four restaurants, all of which will feature menu items drawn from indigenous

ingredients and techniques. The three-meal restaurant will showcase an exhibition kitchen and feature Mediterranean cuisine. The Swim Pool Bar & Grill, a high-energy pool bar, will cater to pool devotees during the day and hotel guests at night. At the Grill, the hotel's food and beverage team will offer traditional bar staples with a Pan Latino influence. The golf club grill, Shor, will be an American seafood grill centered on fresh seafood presented in a contemporary way.

Resort guests may incorporate health and wellness into their stay by taking part in the Hyatt Pure(TM) experience. The hotel's 4,500 square foot full-service Hyatt Pure spa will feature four treatment rooms that can accommodate both indoor and outdoor treatments. Adjacent to the spa is a beauty salon and StayFit@Hyatt fitness center, which offers the most updated Life Fitness equipment and training. Other resort amenities include a multi-level outdoor pool, complete with dramatic water features, lounge and cabana area; four tennis courts; Camp Hyatt; bicycle and jogging paths; volleyball courts; and a marina offering water sports,

diving trips, snorkeling and more.

The combination of the rugged terrain of the Tafelberg Mountain, the Caribbean Sea and Spanish Water create a world-class setting for the resort's 18-hole championship golf course.

Designed by the renowned golf architect Pete Dye, the golf course, named Old Quarry, is the jewel of the resort and will measure approximately 7,200 yards and will include a 8,000 square foot pro shop and Shor, the golf club grill. Old Quarry will also offer a driving range and golf lessons will be available for guests. The theme of Old Quarry, like Hyatt Resorts, is authenticity and is carried throughout the course. The site's topographical features will produce golf holes that are aesthetically striking and rich in character, creating a spectacular place to play for amateurs and professionals alike. The 18-hole Old Quarry course will be one of the best in the Caribbean and the only course in Curacao that is located as part of a resort.

The perfect setting for meetings and special events, the resort features more than

18,500 square feet of indoor and outdoor meeting and banquet space as well as catering that utilizes local ingredients and technology to support sophisticated presentations.

Santa Barbara Plantation is being developed by VIDA Group N.V., a real estate development and consulting company with 35 years of experience in creating premier resort and master planned community projects. For more information, visit www.santabarbaraplantation.com.

About Global Hyatt Corporation

Global Hyatt Corporation, headquartered in Chicago, is one of the world's premier hotel companies. The hotels owned, operated, managed or franchised by its subsidiaries provide authentic hospitality to guests in 44 countries through a passionate commitment to personalized service, cultural relevance, and the environment. Global Hyatt subsidiaries own, operate, manage or franchise more than 370 hotels and resorts worldwide under the Hyatt(R), Hyatt Regency(R), Hyatt Resorts(TM), Grand Hyatt(R), Park Hyatt(R), Hyatt Place(R), Hyatt Summerfield Suites(R) and Andaz(TM) brands with additional properties under development on five continents.

Global Hyatt Corporation is also the owner of Hyatt Vacation Ownership, Inc., operator of Hyatt Vacation Club(R). The success of Global Hyatt is driven by the commitment and energy of the thousands of men and women around the world who provide exceptional service to hotel guests. From the U.S. and Canada, reservations for any Hyatt hotel worldwide may be obtained by calling 1-800-233-1234 or visiting www.hyatt.com. □

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Appetizer: Mustard soup or fish soup or tomato soup

Middle course: Kebab pincho served with tzatziki

Main course: Fish stew or Tenderloin pincho on spicy vegetables
or Mexican chicken platter

Dessert: Brownie with ice cream or fruit sorbet with ice cream

Location: Perle d'Or - For reservation call: 5877710 / 5932660

Moby Dick's offers Free samples of the menu from 6 - 8 pm

Calling all mermaids: Moby Dick's launches "Mussels Monte Carlo"

PASEO HERENCIA - For a great and unique lunch and Dinner experience, you definitely have to go to Moby Dick's Seafood Restaurant.

This is the only place on the island to savor the **legendary Bloody Oyster** - the ultimate delicacy only known by deep sea connoisseurs who

take pleasure in its delight on Sunday mornings. No need to wait for Sunday for this deep sea concoction of Fresh Oysters, Cooked Shrimp, Cold Vodka, Tomato Juice, Tabasco, Lime Juice, Black Pepper and Celery. Moby Dick's weekly lunch specials include the Famed Fish & Chips (Beer battered grouper fillet with malt vinegar & chips for only \$11.95.)

The Amazing Angus Wrap and other Memorable Sandwiches are absolutely delicious just as their dearly loved desserts. The inconceivable cocktails are even more reasons to visit this great place.

A must visit lunch appointment for great value, amazing décor, picture perfect outdoor terrace, across the street from the High-Rise hotels at the popular Paseo Herencia Mall.

**Open Every Day
Lunch & Dinner**

11:30 a.m. – 12 p.m.

**For reservations please
call (297) 586-8333**



Mussels Monte Carlo

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Don't leave Aruba without a Banana-Banana

Children under 10 eat for free off the Kid's Menu

Fishes & More invites you to a special Earlybird Menu

Fishes & More specialize in fresh fish and seafood, and at the same time please the non-fish lovers as well. All the dishes are prepared a la minute by an internationally experienced kitchen team, which gives the twist to our dishes. Influences from all over the world are found back on the menu and they are already well known for our daily changing specials. If you have a large party, or if there is anything you feel like in particular, Fishes & More can always arrange



to have your dinner cooked just for you, as they work only with fresh and honest products!

Ideally located in front of the Occidental Resort

(Former Allegro), they are visited both by individuals and families alike, as we have a kids playground and a kids menu to entertain them, so they can enjoy

their dinner as much as you will yours!

We have entertainment every night at 8PM, and even after dinner the perfect night out continues, as you can shop till you drop since the shops on our friendly square are open until eleven.

See what its like to experience real fresh dining joy with a twist!

**Located in the
Arawak Garden
on Palm Beach**

The Earlybird Menu

Served between 4 pm & 6.30 pm

Soup of the day

Mixed Salad or Ceasar Salad

Catch of the day

Filet Mignon

Fettuccini Alfredo

Chicken Breast

Hot chocolate fudge Sunday

All main courses are served with potatoes au Gratin & fresh vegetables
Early bird menu is priced at \$ 21.75

Service charge not included.

**For reservations call
+(297) 586-3659**



Meeting Planners complete the ECO Challenge



ORANJESTAD – A group of select meeting planners from North America were treated to an unforgettable experience by



ECODestinationManagement of Aruba.

The visitors were split into teams, and outfitted with 4-wheeldrive Jeeps, survival bags, and a challenge workbook filled with destination clues.

They were asked to complete a fun day in the sun traveling from one spot to the next in a rally starting at the Marriott Aruba Resort, past the California Lighthouse, to the Alto Vista Chapel, the Bushiribana gold mines, the Ayo rock formation, the Donkey Sanctuary and back to the Renaissance Aruba Resort, in the heart of Oranjestad.

Teams won points for sportsmanship and high spirits and had points deducted for flat tires and the use of Google search in quest for correct answers!

Pictured here the ECO DMS team, Patricia & Kimberly, and the visitors, prior to their “shake n’ bake” dusty off road experience.

The visitors had buckets of fun, and learned a lot about the island in a process of discovery. □



It's back...!!!

The 10th (!!) Annual Dutch White Asparagus Festival in Madame Janette

You better don't miss it.
As usual our Chefs created again a superb Asparagus Menu for you!



Closed on Sundays

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Web site: www.madamejanette.com

The Palm Beach Plaza toasts entrepreneurial spirit



PALM BEACH – The Palm Beach Plaza currently under the last stages of construction celebrated an important milestone last week as eight local entrepreneurs made a trip to the site to collect the keys for their new stores in the mall, ready to embark on a design journey that will culminate with a new business and a fresh opportunity, and most importantly, the inauguration of the Palm Beach Plaza as a major attraction.

It was a very exciting day at the Palm Beach Plaza, as the investors and representative of Shivas Gold & Gems, Mimo's Ice Cream, Havana Cigar & Spirit Bar, Mama's Mexico Restaurant and Mama's Mexico Fruit & Cocktail Bar, Monarch Jewels, the Post Office and Sir James House of Coffee, met Mall Manager Alex Otterspeer, who delivered a festive bottle

of champagne to go with the set of shiny keys.

The unique mall is preparing for opening in the fall, once interiors are complete, and over the next few days management will be handing keys over to the balance of the tenants.

"Aruba's no.1 attraction is the beach," says Ash Ramchandani on behalf of Landy NV who developed the project with a fifty million florin investment, "and Aruba's no. 2 attraction is opening soon, the Palm Beach Plaza which offers so much more than just shopping."

The Palm Beach Plaza located on the boulevard just ahead of the Marriott Surf Club has been building since 2007, with 15,000 m2 of fine dining, shopping and entertainment. Hailed as the largest mall in the Southern Caribbean, it is an all-day family entertainment center offering an abundance

of activities to vacationers and locals, of all ages.

Landy NV, with managing director Muller Solognier at the helm, is a partnership of three well-established developers, who attracted a great number of prestigious tenants to their multi-level mall.

"Out tenants," states Otterspeer, "are excited about moving into the heart of Palm Beach, within walking distance of all high-rise resorts, and have excellent design ideas, and decorations plans, for their new outlets."

The Palm Beach Plaza is welcoming Shivas Gold & Gems, Tommy Hilfiger, Façonnable, Benetton, San Marina Shoes, Sunspecs, Swatch & Del Sol, Sketchers, Nautica, Royal Jewels & Diamonds, Monarch Jewels, Guess, Guess Kids, Perry Ellis, Addict, Penha Perfumeries, Panache, the Shoe Box, Jon

Sonen, Shabby Shic, Giordano, a 8 movie-theater Mega Plex, Aruba's first food court, and a children's entertainment floor operating a Kiddie-Train, a Rock Climbing wall, a Bowling Alley, an electronic game zone and a thrilling Cable Slide, next to an indoor supervised play room.

The mall will also feature a Day Spa, a branch of Western Union, the Post-Office and a Mini-Market, in addition to a number of theme restaurants including Casa Tua Mediterranean, Epoca Nuova, Hoshi Sushi and Mama Mexico set amid tropical vegetation, with 354 easily accessible, ground level parking spaces, and nicely lit walking lanes to and from the hotel strip.

Pictured here receiving key for Mimo's Ice Cream, Carlos Quintin who is opening a lovely courtyard café serving

delicious ice cream under shady umbrellas; Carlos Lope Medina & Jose Kassir of Mama Mexico's Fruit & Cocktail Bar and Mama's Mexico restaurant receiving the keys to their two establishments, the first one a gazebo in the courtyard serving fresh juices and cocktails, and the second a fabulous restaurant mixing traditional and modern Mexican specialties; Juan Carlos Kassir Mora of Havana Cigar & Spirit Bar who is building a classy and modern lounge with a walk-in humidor; Rajesh Mirchandani of Monarch Jewels, who is opening an elegant jewelry store; Kees van Nederkassel and Dennis Balinge of the Post Office who were first to receive keys to their new branch, and Johnny James of Sir James House of Coffee, at key hand-over, with Mall Manager Alex Otterspeer. □



At the Divi Divi Tree in front of the Amsterdam Manor

Kelly & Steven exchange rings & vows at Sunset



EAGLE BEACH - Steven Kreider and Kelly Tomasic were married on June 5, 2009 in Aruba on the beach in front of the Amsterdam Manor.

The couple, hailing from the Philadelphia, PA (USA), met about 4 years ago while working for Pfizer, Inc., selling Pharmaceuticals. Steve proposed last year on February 26, 2008.

"We chose Aruba because it is out of the hurricane path, it is sunny most of the time, and there are many things to do and see on the island. It was also easily accessible for both of our families.

We had a beautiful, intimate wedding - everything was wonderful!"

The beach blessing was performed by Rev. Jacobs in front of family and friends from the USA. The lovebirds planned their wedding with Lissy Lampe of Ceremonies & Celebrations in Aruba who created their dream wedding come true.

They are celebrating their honeymoon at the Amsterdam Manor on Eagle Beach.

Congratulations from Bella Aruba Photography and Aruba Today. □

~ Photos by Julia Renfro ~



Ronald van Raak

Members of the Second Chamber profiled Gradual growth towards country status is much wiser

THE HAGUE--It's not that he thinks St. Maarten does not deserve to attain country status. To the contrary, his party fully supports the right of the St. Maarten people to determine their own future. Member of Parliament (MP) Ronald van Raak of the Socialist Party (SP) just does not think that becoming a country at this time would be the wisest thing for the island.

"It sounds paternalistic, but we have to prevent St. Maarten from making the wrong move and falling into a deep pit with a bad ending as a result," said Van Raak. The 39-year-old MP, who is a member of the Second Chamber's Permanent Committee of Antillean and Aruban Affairs NAAZ, would rather see St. Maarten gradually grow towards more autonomy.

Van Raak has in mind a status of "public entity," similar to Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius, which will be integrated into the Dutch Constellation in the near future.

If the island can manage that, it could move to the next step, which would be country status. When St. Maarten has "grown up" sufficiently, the island could go for the ultimate step - independence.

Van Raak believes St. Maarten first wants to get rid of Curaçao. "We are first going to work on getting St. Maarten out of Curaçao's clutches," he said, referring to the dismantling of the Netherlands Antilles and creating new relations in the Dutch Kingdom.

"I hope we can work things out with St. Maarten for the betterment of the people. To me, it doesn't matter whether this takes place as an ultra peripheral status, public entity, autonomous country in the Kingdom, or as an independent country," he said.

Being a socialist party, SP respects the right of self-determination and the desire of any country to become more independent, said Van Raak. In his opinion, ideally every country should be independent. "It is up to the St. Maarten people to determine whether they want more independence or not."

According to Van Raak, SP does not have bad intentions and does not want to impose. "We want to help. We are willing to invest, but a country needs to have a future."

Difficult area

Buying off the national debt and saying, "Good luck!" with the rest is not the solution for the problems, said Van Raak. The problems are many. St. Maarten is a small island situated in a "difficult area" in the Caribbean where problems such as drug smuggling, human smuggling, poverty, poor health and social system, and corrupted governments reign. "You need a strong government to cope with these issues."

"You have to know how much capacity you need to be a strong government and to provide the proper services to the people," said Van Raak.

He does not think that St. Maarten's government currently has that capacity. "There is a lot of criticism on government. The report of the WODC (the Dutch Scientific Investigation Documentation Centre, ed.) doesn't paint a pretty picture."

The March 2007 WODC report on organised crime and maintenance of law and order on St. Maarten identified "big problems," said Van Raak. At the time the report was published, the Dutch Government and the island territory said they would do something about the situation, he added. The additional research State Secretary of Kingdom Relations Ank Bijleveld-Schouten promised to carry out in St. Maarten should bring to light what has happened since then and where the island currently stands, said Van Raak.

The 1.5 billion euros the Netherlands is investing in the islands needs to be well spent and has to be conditioned. Solid government finances and supervision are a must. "Otherwise they will again knock on our door in five years and then I have to explain to the Dutch people that their tax money has been squandered."

Responsibility

According to Van Raak, the Dutch Kingdom has a responsibility. This is part of the guarantee function as laid down in the Kingdom Charter. The Charter defines the right of self-determination for the islands. "St. Maarten can get out of the Kingdom."

We, the Netherlands, can't get out, and we don't want to get out either. But we have to take responsibility," he said.

As long as the Netherlands

Antilles does not choose to become independent, the Netherlands carries a responsibility for the islands, said Van Raak. "The Netherlands has the historical task to offer the people of the islands a better future."

More intervention now can prevent that [and] we [will] keep wrestling with our colonial past. That is why the SP is against quickly rounding off the negotiations."

Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius can become overseas municipalities of the Netherlands in a relatively short time on the

condition that there is enough supervision on good governance and as long as the islands manage to collect sufficient income.

Van Raak said the process to integrate Bonaire, Saba, and St. Eustatius has been going well. "Big steps have been taken and a lot of hard work done. But I do hope that multi-nationals like NuStar/Valero on St. Eustatius will contribute more. Multi-nationals, multi-millionaires, everyone has to contribute to a better future for the islands," he said. Van Raak, who studied philosophy and history and

taught at the University of Amsterdam until 2005, has been a member of NAAZ committee since late 2006, when he became a Member of Parliament. He said he has always been interested in the Kingdom and the Dutch Caribbean.

"It is our Kingdom far away. There are many differences, yet so many similarities." Van Raak said lately the stance in Dutch Parliament regarding the islands and, especially, St. Maarten had gotten a lot tougher. "Maybe we are far away but we seen enough problems." □

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Aruba TODAY

Supreme Court delays Chrysler's sale to Fiat



The Chrysler logo is seen on the outside of a dealership in Manhattan. The US Supreme Court on Monday put a temporary hold on the Chrysler plan to exit bankruptcy protection under an alliance with Italian automaker Fiat.

(AFP/Getty Images/File/Chris Mcgrath)

WASHINGTON — Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg on Monday delayed Chrysler's sale of most of its assets to a group led by Italy's Fiat, but didn't say how long the deal will remain on hold. Ginsburg said in an order that the sale is "stayed pending further order," indicating that the delay may only be temporary.

Chrysler LLC has said the sale must close by June 15, or Fiat Group SpA has the option to walk away, leaving the Auburn Hills, Mich., automaker with little option but to liquidate. A federal appeals court in New York approved the sale Friday but gave opponents until 4 p.m. EDT Monday to try to get the Supreme Court to intervene. Ginsburg issued her order right before the deadline.

Ginsburg could decide on her own whether to end the delay, or she could ask the full court to decide. It is unclear when she or the court will act.

Chrysler said it had no comment until it receives

further information from the court.

Chrysler claims the agreement with Fiat is the best deal it can get for its assets and is critical to the company's plan to emerge from Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection.

But a trio of Indiana state pension and construction funds, which hold a small part of Chrysler's debt, have been fighting the sale, claiming that it unfairly favors Chrysler's unsecured stakeholders ahead of secured debtholders like themselves.

As part of Chrysler's restructuring plan, the automaker's secured debtholders will receive \$2 billion, or about 29 cents on the dollar, for their combined \$6.9 billion in debt. The Indiana funds bought their \$42.5 million in debt in July 2008 for 43 cents on the dollar.

The funds also are challenging the constitutionality of the Treasury Department's use of money from the Troubled Asset Relief Program to

supply Chrysler's bankruptcy protection financing. They say the government did so without congressional authority.

Consumer groups and individuals with product-related lawsuits also are contesting a condition of the Chrysler sale that would release the company from product liability claims related to vehicles it sold before the "New Chrysler" partnered with Fiat is created.

Individuals with claims against "Old Chrysler" would have to seek compensation from the parts of the company not being sold to Fiat. But those assets have limited value and it's doubtful that there will be anything available to pay consumer claims.

The appeals come as Congress intensifies its scrutiny of the Obama administration's government-led restructuring of Chrysler and General Motors Corp. The Senate Banking Committee said it planned to call Ron Bloom, a senior adviser to the auto task force, and Edward Montgomery, who serves as the Obama administration's director of recovery for auto communities and workers, to a hearing Wednesday.

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., the committee's chairman, planned to review the use of TARP funds to help the auto companies and look at whether taxpayers will receive a return on their investment.

GM and Chrysler executives faced questions last week from Congress over the elimination of hundreds of dealerships as part of the companies' reorganizations. □



Traders gather at the kiosk where GM is traded on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, June 1, 2009.

REUTERS/Brendan McDermid

Wall Street rallies late, ends flat

By Chuck Mikolajczak

NEW YORK (Reuters) — U.S. stocks rebounded late on Monday to end flat, shrugging off lighter-than-expected sales from McDonald's (MCD.N) and lowered iPhone prices from Apple (AAPL.O).

The three major U.S. stock indexes had fallen more than 1 percent before rallying in the last hour of trading, led by bank shares.

Analysts pointed to the S&P 500's recent piercing of its 200-day moving average as a positive sign, giving investors confidence to buy stocks on dips in the market.

"What we're seeing is investors, both institutional and individuals, looking at dips as an opportunity to buy," said Bucky Hellwig, senior vice president at Morgan Asset Management in Birmingham, Alabama.

"It's a sign of the broader strength that's in the market."

The S&P 500 has rallied 39 percent since hitting a 12-year closing low on March 9, leading analysts to speculate a correction was looming, although recent dips have been short-lived.

"The market has been in an uptrend and ever since we broke through that 200-day moving average, the market has been acting pretty well," said Todd Leone, head of listed trading at Cowen & Co. in New York.

"You're still seeing buyers out there."

The Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) gained 1.36 points, or 0.02 percent, to 8,764.49. The Standard & Poor's 500 Index (.SPX) dropped 0.95 of a point, or 0.10 percent, to 939.14. The Nasdaq Composite Index (.IXIC) dropped 7.02 points, or 0.38 percent, to 1,842.40.

TEXAS INSTRUMENTS LEAPS AFTER BELL

After the closing bell, shares of Texas Instruments Inc (TXN.N) jumped 5.2 percent to \$20.80 after the chip supplier raised its earnings per share and revenue outlook for the second-quarter. Financial stocks led the rebound, with JP Morgan Chase & Co (JPM.N) up 2.4 percent at \$35.39. The big U.S. banking company's stock gave the biggest lift to the Dow as investors awaited news from Federal Reserve and Treasury officials, who are expected to announce which banks will be allowed to repay TARP money soon. The KBW Bank index (.BKX) added 1.3 percent. McDonald's (MCD.N) was the blue-chip Dow's primary laggard after the world's largest hamburger chain said May sales at U.S. restaurants open at least 13 months rose 2.8 percent, but were significantly less than the 6.1 percent growth in the previous month. The stock lost 1.9 percent to \$58.72. □



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Apple drops entry iPhone to \$99, unveils new model

By **JORDAN ROBERTSON**
and **JESSICA MINTZ**,
AP Technology Writers

SAN FRANCISCO - Apple Inc. slashed the entry price for an iPhone in half and rolled out laptops for \$300 less than previous models Monday, the company's first dramatic price cuts since the recession began a year and a half ago.

Apple unveiled a new model of the iPhone — the 3G S — that looks the same but will sport a faster processor, longer battery life and sought-after features like an internal compass, a video camera and a photo camera with better resolution and auto-focus. A 16-gigabyte version of the 3G S will cost \$199 and a 32-gigabyte version will be \$299.

The 8-gigabyte iPhone 3G, which came out last year, now costs \$99, instead of \$199. When the iPhone debuted two years ago, eager Apple fans had to shell out \$499 for a 4-gigabyte version and \$599 for 8 gigs. The iPhone news was the highlight of a two-hour presentation by Apple executives at their annual conference for software developers. Apple is known for ending these kinds of events with a last-minute surprise, leading to some anticipation that CEO and co-founder Steve Jobs might make a cameo. But Jobs, who is due to return from medical leave at the end of this month, did not take the stage. Apple's top marketing executive, Philip Schiller, exited without uttering the company's signature line that there would be "one more thing."

The latest iPhones go on sale June 19, just as two-year contracts for the buyers of the original models are expiring and Apple's phone faces tougher competition from the likes of Research in Motion Ltd. and Palm Inc., which just came out with the \$200 Pre smart phone.

Shares of Cupertino, Calif.-based Apple slipped 82 cents to close at \$143.85.

Lowering the price of the least expensive iPhone could be risky for Apple, which is betting the new versions have enough appealing features

to keep higher-priced models selling briskly. AT&T Inc., the exclusive carrier of the iPhone in the U.S., said Monday it's confident its wireless profit margins will hold steady overall. AT&T shares fell 16 cents to \$24.40. Apple might also be banking on expanding the profits it reaps from taking 30 percent of the revenue from downloadable applications on the iPhone and the iPod Touch. A new version of the

iPhone operating software, available for download June 17, lets software developers sell additional content, like electronic books or extra levels to a video game, within applications.

Among other upgrades to the iPhone, the new software will let people download movies and TV shows using the device's cellular connection. It will let users send photos and videos the same way they

send text messages, bringing the iPhone in line with other smart phones. (AT&T won't offer this feature until late in the summer.) And the new software will let parents limit the kinds of applications kids can download to the device. Apple had already announced other new features in the new software — such as the ability to cut, copy and paste text — and the ability for "tethering," which means using the iPhone

to connect a computer to the Internet. However, while 22 wireless carriers will enable tethering, AT&T will not.

For its MacBook line, Apple showed off new MacBook Pro laptops that boast longer battery life and faster processors. The company rolled out new 13-inch and 15-inch Macbook Pro laptops that start at \$1,200 and \$1,700, respectively, \$300 lower than existing similar notebooks. □

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The ongoing struggle with the colonial past

by Ronald van Raak, Member of Parliament for the SP

On 15th May the inhabitants of Curaçao voted 'yes' in a referendum proposing a new set of administrative arrangements with the Netherlands. The island, in common with its neighbour Sint Maarten, will become an independent country within the Kingdom. SP Member of Parliament Ronald van Raak is pleased that the population of Curaçao has opted for continued cooperation with the Netherlands, but warns also that, in relation to good governance and sound finance, a great deal of work remains to be done.

In the seventeenth century the Netherlands became a major colonial power. The Dutch Republic established trading posts in Africa, Asia and the Americas. The United East India Company (VOC) ruled over large areas of what is now Indonesia, while the West India Company (WIC) brought Surinam and the Dutch Antilles, amongst other areas, under its control. In the twentieth century our country underwent a painful process of decolonisation. Just after the Second World War the people of the Dutch East Indies fought two wars to win their independence, after which relations cooled considerably. In 1975 the Netherlands gave every support to Surinam's independence, but the young country continued to experience many problems following its achievement. Many of its inhabitants decided to migrate to the Netherlands to look for a better future.

A forced marriage

It seemed obvious that the colonies in the Caribbean region would also gain their independence or seek an association with a neighbouring country such as Venezuela. The Dutch Antilles, however, preferred to remain within the Kingdom. According to the Statute of the Kingdom, adopted in 1954, the Dutch Antilles would retain the option of withdrawing, but the Netherlands would not be permitted to secede from the forced marriage. The administrative relations within the Dutch Antilles remained poor, however. The island of Aruba seceded from the Dutch Antilles in 1986 to become an autonomous country within the Kingdom. Curaçao and Sint Maarten are now looking to follow suit. The smaller islands of Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius, on the other hand, want to become overseas local authorities with a direct affiliation to the Netherlands.

A neoliberal paradise

The Dutch Antilles are not poor, but there are indeed many extremely poor Antillians. The average income per head, around €12,000 p.a., is higher than that of Romania. But income differentials are extremely wide, so that in the Antilles there are

numerous very wealthy people, most of them foreigners, many extremely poor people, and widespread unemployment. 30 percent of the population have to get by on less than €215 per month. The De Antilles are, moreover, very small: Curaçao has just over 140,000 inhabitants, Sint Maarten 40,000, Bonaire 12,000, Sint Eustatius 2,700 and Saba 1,500. In addition, there are many undocumented residents, as the Antilles are in a region marked by extensive labour migration. The islands are also weighed down by violence and criminality, much of it associated with the smuggling of arms and drugs or with financial crime. .

The Dutch Antilles are a paradise for rich foreigners and for multinational corporations. Tax evasion is general and tax revenues small. In addition, the islands count fifteen special economic zones, where hundreds of firms are established which pay no tax other than a levy on profits of 2% - as against the 25.5% rate in the Netherlands.

Government supervision is often extremely weak. The SP has been campaigning since 2003 against pollution from the ISLA refinery in Willemstad, Curaçao's capital, which emits poisonous smoke into the working class residential areas of Otrabanda and Punda. Too many decision-makers are more concerned to promote the interests of their family or social group than the general wellbeing. Policy is neoliberal in the extreme, with many public services being left to the market to provide. Poor people in the Antilles are trapped in social backwardness. The islands have huge debts, with too little having been invested in education and health care. Local workers have to compete with migrants from Colombia, Cuba and Venezuela, and many young people leave for the Netherlands, where a poor grasp of Dutch and a lack of education mean their prospects are generally not good.

Should we be interfering in the Antilles?


Ank Bijleveld, Secretary of State for Relations within the Kingdom, is currently conducting negotiations over a revision of these relations. During a round table conference in November, 2005, it was agreed that the Netherlands would help the islands to discharge their debts, for which purpose a sum of €1.7 billion was reserved. The Netherlands also wants to help with the necessary investment, in education and health care, policing and justice. But if the islands are to be offered a new future, rather more than this is needed. It has been agreed that their executives must draw up sound budgets which offer the prospect of financial independence. Corruption will be tackled and regulations put in place to combat nepotism.

To date, the negotiations have

been somewhat stilted. The original deadline of December 2008 has been extended, but the new target date of the end of 2009 will not be achieved. An important point of dispute is the question of how far the Netherlands should be permitted to interfere. The islands' rulers insist that the Dutch Antilles are autonomous countries within the Kingdom and are in no way answerable to the Netherlands. According to the Statute of the Kingdom, the Netherlands does, however, have the responsibility of guaranteeing human rights and freedoms on the islands, as well as the rule of law and the soundness of their administration. The Dutch government has thus far been extremely reticent when it comes to intervening in the administration. The SP wants to see more clarity over when the Dutch government might, in the future, make use of this power. . Intervention by the Netherlands would be necessary in cases where things go badly wrong. A rapid end must be put, for example, to pollution from the ISLA refinery, which, according to a 'Strategic Orientation Study' conducted by the island's executive, is responsible for up to eighteen people a year dying and thousands becoming ill. The Netherlands should also be asserting its rights when it comes to improving the Bon Futuro prison on Curaçao, in order to put an end to the degrading conditions there. In some policy areas continuing involvement will also be needed, for example in combating corruption. June 2007 saw a successful protest when members of the island council of Sint-Maarten wanted to increase their already ample expenses reimbursements by 50%. In December 2008 these same politicians wanted to give themselves a very attractive pensions hike, a move which once again was scuppered by the SP.

Is the Netherlands becoming a tax haven?

An important precondition for aid in paying off the huge debts should be, in the SP's view, that the islands themselves address the problem of ensuring sufficient income. This means that the taxes imposed must also actually be collected and an end put to the tax advantages available in the special economic zones. In February of this year Finance Minister Wouter Bos gave his support to plans to tackle tax havens within Europe, by which he meant countries such as Lichtenstein, Luxembourg and Switzerland. Bos, who is also leader of the Labour Party (PvdA) could set a good example by tackling the Dutch Antilles' special economic zones. A small increase in taxes for these zones in Curaçao, where firms as things stand pay almost nothing, can prevent the island falling back into



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financial difficulties in the future. For the tax havens on Bonaire and Sint Eustatius, the Dutch finance minister has a particular responsibility, because these islands have opted to become an actual part of out country. If Bos does not intervene, it will mean that in the near future we will see tax havens on Dutch soil. . The 'BES' islands - Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius - are small and isolated. They have opted to become 'public bodies' within the Netherlands, each a sort of overseas local authority, governed by special rules. After a transition period, precisely what these rules will be, which rules and which laws will be adopted, will be examined. Former minister Ank Bijleveld has been appointed commissioner responsible for supervising the transition on behalf of the Dutch government. A College of Financial Oversight will supervise the financial policies of the BES islands, and the Dutch government will be able to intervene if things go wrong. Rules have been established for good governance, with particular attention being paid to the problem of nepotism. There will be a common police force and Court of Justice. But the islands lie at a great distance from each other and cooperation will therefore be difficult.

Sint Maarten is in part Dutch, in part French, with the French section forming an Outremer, an overseas department under the direct rule of France. The Dutch Sint Maarten has opted to become an autonomous country within the Kingdom. Its executive is frequently under fire for corruption and nepotism. In 2007 an official report concluded that the island is in the grip of organised crime, offering a haven for money launderers, drug smugglers and arms traders. The College of Financial Oversight will also supervise finances on Sint Maarten, but in an autonomous country will have less competence. Sint Maarten will have its own police force and Court of Justice, but the island seems much too small to have any chance of combating

international criminality. In the SP's view, it would be better were Sint Maarten to accept the same 'public body' status as have the BES islands. .

Curaçao has, on the face of it, more potential to join Aruba as a country within the Kingdom. On Curaçao, however, there is a great deal of opposition to the conditions placed by the Netherlands on the proposed debt forgiveness. On 15th May a small majority voted despite this to accept these conditions. For Curaçao, the same financial supervision must be applied as in Sint-Maarten. This would mean that in the first instance the island would itself be responsible for balancing its budget. One positive is that from now on real budgets will be drawn up, rather than as previously, when sums were listed with no clear view of how these had been spent and what had been achieved through this spending. Curaçao will have its own police force and Court of Justice, but the question again arises of whether these will be capable of effectively tackling the violence and criminality on the island. As long as the Antilles do not vote for independence, the Netherlands will retain a responsibility for the islands and the historic task of offering their people a better future. More interference now can prevent our having to struggle for even longer with our colonial past. The SP is therefore against a too hasty closure of negotiations. Bonaire, Saba and Sint Eustatius can quickly be made overseas local authorities of the Netherlands, on condition that good governance is assured and that the islands arrange sufficient income for themselves, including by taxing the special economic zones. Sint Maarten is still a long way from greater independence, and would be better served for the time being by opting, as have the other small islands, for more oversight by the Netherlands. Curaçao has a better future as an independent country within the Kingdom, but in this case too the conditions for good governance and sound finance must be created. □

Sunset Grille, a prime Steakhouse also offering Spa Cuisine



PALM BEACH – The Sunset Grille at the Radisson Aruba Resort Casino & Spa needs no introduction. The award winning American steakhouse with its chic, cosmopolitan atmosphere headlines Prime Beef, the highest grade U.S.D.A -- only 2% of all beef is graded prime, required to age a minimum of 4 weeks. While steaks and chops make up the heart of the menu, the resort's Executive Chef Matt Boland and restaurant Chef Maarten Smeets innovated

unparalleled appetizers and extraordinary desserts, which helped the Sunset Grille achieve the Triple AAA's elite four-diamond status – a rare feat for steakhouses. Sunset Grille well-known as the number one steakhouse in Aruba offers also spa cuisine, for the health conscious visitors, featuring appetizers, salads and a wide array of seafood selections. The spa cuisine dishes are balanced by enhancing flavors with citrus, spice and

herbs and taste is elevated by marinating, smoking and grilling, Smeets explains. "We now use many more herbs, vegetables, grains and fibers," adds Boland, "all designed to sustain a healthier life style; and we stay away from saturated fats and refined sugars, as well as use salt sparingly," he informs. "The Sunset Grille kitchen," Boland reveals, "uses no trans fats, and our guests," he banter, "stay healthy, wealthy and wise with our new and exciting spa cuisine."

Among the patrons favorite dishes are, the Sunset Grille's famous Chop House Martini Salad, "Shaken not Stirred;" the lobster bisque with a pastry crust, the various cuts of prime beef, the popular Rack of Lamb, Stuffed Quail and the delicious Veal Oscar. The spa cuisine features items such as Tuna Tataki, the Spinach Salad, Chilean Seabass, grilled Swordfish and the Asian style Salmon and Scallops served with the



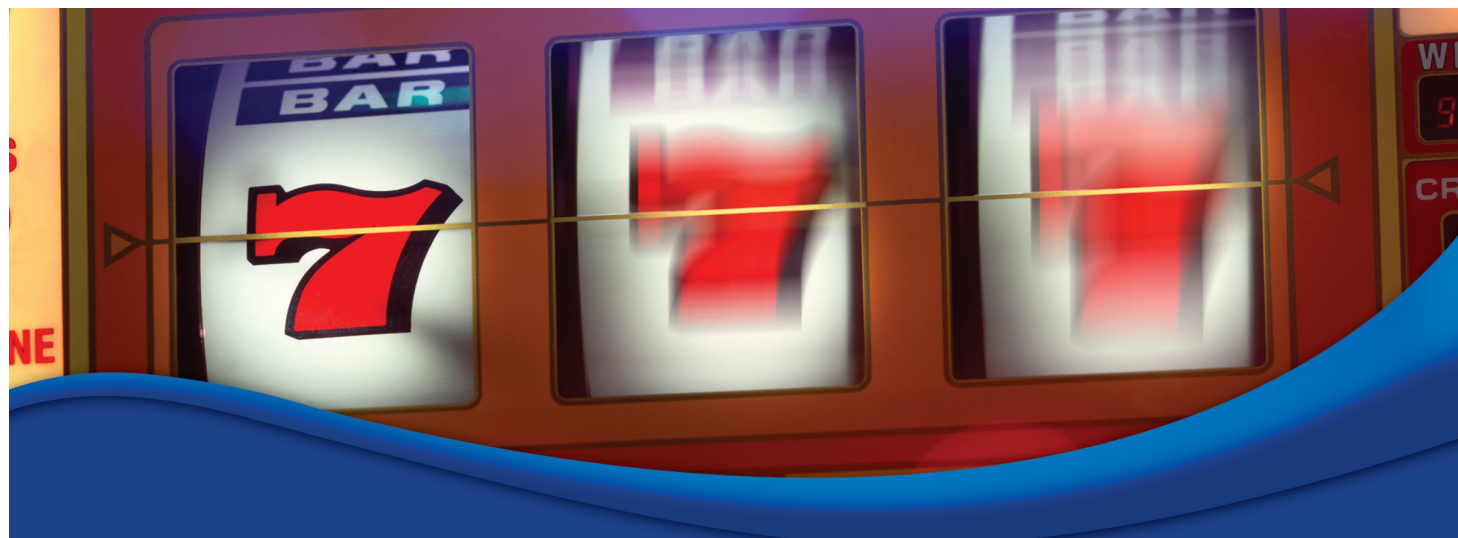
popular Soba Noodles.

The Sunset Grille always endeavors to exceed guests' expectations by purchasing the very best products available and preparing them in accordance with a combination of "tried and true" as well as cutting edge contemporary methods, Boland explains.

Simply put, the Sunset Grille culinary team buys the best products, and cooks them the best way they know, refusing to cut corners, especially when it comes to buying, aging and



cutting meat. No wonder the readers of Caribbean Travel & Life named it the top restaurant in the Caribbean. □



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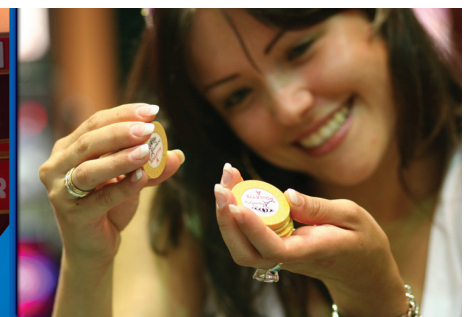
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with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool.

The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the common area to lounge and relax. Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclusive to the owners. Construction on Oasis at Eagle

Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer. The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

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On Top Of The News

Email: news@arubatoday.com

Tuesday, June 9, 2009



President Barack Obama listens to Vice President Joe Biden during a meeting his Cabinet, Monday, June 8, 2009, in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington.

Associated Press

Obama defends stimulus, facing high unemployment,

BRETT BLACKLEDGE
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Eager to show action on the ailing U.S. economy, President Barack Obama promised Monday to speed federal money into hundreds of public works projects this summer, vowing that 600,000 jobs would be created or saved.

Responding to persistently high unemployment figures and criticism that the stimulus was not worth its historic price tag, the president argued his recovery plan was on track. But his fresh promises were largely political theater: The jobs goal was set a month ago, and the list of projects Obama announced was already in the pipeline.

Surrounded by his Cabinet, Obama emphasized what has become a dominant issue of public concern — an economy that keeps bleeding jobs — on the day after returning from a week of diplomacy and sightseeing in the Middle East and Europe.

He concentrated on the billions of dollars from a taxpayer-funded plan that will be disbursed this summer, spurring new debate about just how much the \$787 billion stimulus plan is helping. “We’ve done more than ever, faster than ever, more responsibly than ever, to get the gears of the economy moving again,” Obama said. Based on the work done across a broad spectrum of federal agencies during the first 100 days of the administration, the president said, “we’re in a position to really accelerate.” But at the same time, he said he was not happy

with the progress made so far and pressed his Cabinet to keep at it.

He said he was pleased the economy lost fewer jobs in May than experts anticipated, asserting that was a sign things were moving in the right direction. But he said the 345,000 losses were still too many, and he cautioned bluntly that “we’re still in the middle of a very deep recession” and “it’s going to take a considerable amount of time for us to pull out.”

The jobs initiative under the stimulus law covers an array of public works ranging from parks and wastewater projects to improvements at military facilities, airports and veterans medical centers.

The ramp-up is not surprising; the administration has always viewed the summer as a peak for stimulus spending, as better weather permits more public works construction and federal agencies have processed more requests. Republicans remain critical of the stimulus spending, slamming it as a big government program that ultimately will do little for recovery.

Said Obama: “Our ultimate goal is making sure that the average family out there, mom working, dad working — that they are able to pay their bills, feel some job security, make their mortgage payments.”

The sheer enormity of the spending plan and its long-term costs to the public have raised concern for many Americans and given Republicans a foothold.

Continued on Next Page

Supreme Court nominee fractures ankle at airport



Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor, wearing a cast on her right foot, meets with Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-La., on Capitol Hill, in Washington, Monday, June 8, 2009. Earlier, Sotomayor broke her ankle when she stumbled at La Guardia airport enroute to Washington.

Associated Press

JULIE HIRSCHFELD DAVIS

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor hobbled through a busy day of meetings in Congress Monday after suffering an ankle break in an airport stumble, then boarding a flight from New York to Washington to visit senators who will vote on her confirmation to be the U.S. high court’s first Hispanic justice.

Continued on Page B4



U.S. Marines from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Battalion walk through the sand inside Camp Leatherneck in Afghanistan’s Helmand province Monday June 8, 2009. Some 7,000 of the new U.S. troops ordered to Afghanistan are fanning out across the dangerous south on a mission to defeat the Taliban insurgency and to change the course of a war claiming American lives at a record pace.

Associated Press

U.S. Marines fan out across dangerous southern Afghanistan

See Page B6



FILE - In this Feb. 6, 2009 file photo, then-Central Intelligence Agency Director nominee Leon Panetta testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington. A turf war between the nation's two intelligence chiefs over the role of CIA station chiefs in U.S. embassies abroad has forced National Security Adviser James Jones to step in to mediate, according to current and former U.S. government officials.

Associated Press

By **DEVLIN BARRETT**
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — CIA Director Leon Panetta told a federal judge Monday that releasing documents about the agency's terror

STIMULUS

Continued from Page B1

A recent Associated Press-GfK poll found that 41 percent of those surveyed disapproved of Obama's handling of the deficit, his highest disapproval rating on any subject polled. Other surveys show that the public is particularly attuned to government spending and the amount of red ink in the budget.

Without naming names, Obama shot back at skeptics during the Cabinet meeting.

"I know that they are some who, despite all evidence to the contrary, still don't believe in the necessity and promise of this recovery," Obama said. "And I would suggest to them that they talk to the companies who, because of this plan, scrapped the idea

interrogations would gravely damage national security.

Panetta sent a 24-page missive to New York federal judge Alvin Hellerstein, arguing that release of

of laying off employees and in fact decided to hire employees. Tell that to the Americans who received that unexpected call saying, 'Come back to work.'"

The White House announced a Web site, www.whitehouse.gov/recovery, to allow people to share stories and videos of projects in their towns.

Just how much of an impact Obama's recovery program had on the pace of job losses is up for debate.

Obama has claimed as many as 150,000 jobs saved or created by his stimulus plan so far, even as government reports have shown the economy has lost more than 1.6 million jobs since Congress approved funding for the program in February.

Obama initially offered his stimulus plan as a

CIA urges judge to keep detainee papers secret

agency cables describing tough interrogation methods used on al-Qaida suspects would tell the enemy far too much about U.S. counterterrorism work.

The CIA director filed the papers in a lawsuit brought by the American Civil Liberties Union. The suit has already led to the unveiling of Bush administration legal memos authorizing harsh methods — among them waterboarding, a type of simulated drowning, and slamming suspects into walls — and a fight over releasing long-secret photos of abused detainees.

"I have determined that the

disclosure of intelligence about al-Qaida reasonably could be expected to result in exceptionally grave damage to the national security by informing our enemies of what we knew about them, and when, and in some instances, how we obtained the intelligence," Panetta wrote.

Panetta acknowledges in the court papers that the CIA destroyed 92 videotapes of detainee interrogations that took place in 2002. Officials have previously said that a dozen of those tapes showed the so-called "enhanced interrogation techniques," which critics

call torture. The destruction of the videotapes has spurred a criminal investigation into why they were destroyed.

The tapes — and the interrogations — are also an issue in the ACLU's lawsuit.

The CIA is fighting efforts to force release of the documents, including dozens of agency cables. The cables, Panetta said, describe in detail the methods used on terror suspects, the information gleaned from them, and what U.S. officials still did not know at the time the suspects were being questioned. □



President Barack Obama, third from right, meets with his Cabinet, Monday, June 8, 2009, in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington. From left are, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius, Recovery Act Chairman Earl Devaney, Vice President Joe Biden, the president, Attorney Gen. Eric Holder and Housing and Urban Development Secretary Shaun Donovan.

Associated Press

way to put people back to work, a promise that 3.5 million jobs would

be saved or created. The administration's predictions that unemployment would

rise no higher than 8 percent already have been shattered. □



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Judge: Illegal Immigrants' rights violated in raids

DAVE COLLINS

Associated Press Writer

HARTFORD, Connecticut (AP) — Federal agents violated the constitutional rights of four illegal immigrants in raids that critics say were retaliation for a New Haven program that provided ID cards to foreigners in the country illegally, a federal judge has ruled.

The sweeps in New Haven on June 6, 2007, came two days after the city approved issuing identification cards to all city residents, regardless of immigration status. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials deny the early morning raids were retaliatory, saying planning began the year before.

Immigration Judge Michael Straus, in decisions last week, said the immigration agents went into the immigrants' homes without warrants, probable cause or their consent, and he put a stop to deportation proceedings against the four defendants, whose names were not released. Immigration officials claim all four are from Mexico, but all four cited their Fifth Amendment rights in refusing to say what country they are from.

Two of the four immigrants

lived in one home, and two lived in a second home. They said in affidavits that agents barged into both homes after residents had opened their doors only a little. The agents went into both homes looking for specific illegal immigrants on a "target list," who weren't found, court documents say.

Immigration officials have denied claims that the 32 arrests that morning were improper, and they said the people who were arrested had been ordered by judges to leave the country.

They said in court documents that they were allowed into the homes during the sweep.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement authorities are reviewing the judge's ruling and will decide later whether to appeal, agency spokeswoman Paula Grenier said Monday. The department has 30 days to file a challenge. Grenier declined further comment.

Witnesses alleged in court documents that parents were arrested in front of their frightened children, agents refused to identify themselves and told people in the homes to shut up.

In his rulings issued June 1 and 2, Straus said the four immigrants' rights were



Former Agriprocessors employee Jonas Ordenes, center, looks on Tuesday, May 12, 2009 held to commemorate the anniversary of the immigration raid at the Agriprocessors kosher slaughterhouse last May in Postville that ended with 389 arrests.

Associated Press

"egregiously violated" and the agents' entries in the apartments were "unlawful."

Of the 32 people arrested, 30 were released on bond or supervision orders. Seventeen of those 30 immigrants challenged their

arrests in court.

Yale Law School students are representing the immigrants, who still live in New Haven.

"We're obviously very happy about it," Anant Saraswat, one of the students, said Monday. "We

think our clients had a very strong case."

New Haven officials have said the raids appeared to be retaliatory for the ID cards, which are meant to help immigrants open bank accounts and receive city services. □

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AP sources: House Dems favor insurance

By DAVID ESPO

AP Special Correspondent

WASHINGTON — Senior House Democrats drafting health care legislation are considering slapping an unspecified financial penalty on anyone who refuses to purchase affordable health insurance, a key committee chairman said Monday.

In addition, officials said Democrats are considering a new tax on certain health insurance benefits as one of numerous options to help pay for expanding coverage to the uninsured. No details on the tax were immediately available, and no final decisions were expected until next week at the earliest.

These officials said drafters of the legislation will include a government-run insurance option as well as plans offered by private companies. The government option draws near-unanimous opposition from Republicans and provokes concerns among many Democrats, as well, although President Barack Obama has spoken out in favor of it.

Under the emerging House Democratic plan, individuals and small businesses would be able to purchase coverage from a "health exchange" and the government would require all plans to contain a minimum benefit, these officials added. No applicant could be rejected for pre-existing conditions, nor could they be charged a higher premium, they said.

House Democrats also are considering a wide-ranging change for Medicaid that would provide a uniform benefit across all 50 states and increase payments to health professionals, according to several officials. Medicaid is a state-federal program of health coverage for the poor.



In this photo taken April 19, 2009, some of the prescriptions and over the counter products that Toni Lopez uses is seen at her home in Sacramento, Calif. Remember the "shovel-ready" projects lined up for all that stimulus money? It turns out social spending, more than construction, is hitting pay dirt in the huge federal effort to turn the economy around. All along, the public face of the stimulus package has been the worker in a hard hat, getting back on the job to rebuild the nation's infrastructure.

Associated Press

The officials spoke on condition of anonymity, saying they did not want to pre-empt a presentation to rank-and-file Democrats on Tuesday.

At the same time, Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, confirmed the proposed penalty for those who refuse to purchase coverage they can afford, referring to it as "play or pay."

"There is no use having a mandate without a contribution," he said.

Waivers would be available for those who could not cover the cost of insurance.

The disclosures came as the pace of activity quickened in both the House and Senate on health insurance legislation, a top priority for the administration. Obama is scheduled to meet Tuesday afternoon at the White House with several Democrats.

Democratic leaders hope to pass legislation in both

houses by the first few days of August, and complete work on a compromise measure in the fall for Obama's signature.

Obama has stepped up his own involvement in the issue in recent days, and there has been a flurry of negotiations involving outside interest groups who have pledged to take steps to achieve savings within the private insurance market.

Alongside those efforts, financing Obama's plan to spread coverage more widely carries a price tag estimated at higher than \$1 trillion over a decade. House Democrats are considering cutting projected Medicare payments to home health care, pharmaceutical companies, insurance companies, hospitals and others to cover costs.

The option for taxing insurance benefits is also under consideration as part of legislation taking shape across the Capitol in the Senate Finance Committee.

Numerous options are possible, many involving either a tax levied according to the value of an individual's employer-provided health plan, or on the benefits received by upper-income taxpayers.

The issue poses multiple potential problems for Obama, who has pledged not to raise taxes on individuals making less than \$250,000 and also

ran commercials during the presidential campaign criticizing GOP rival Sen. John McCain's call for a tax on health benefits.

In recent weeks, the president and his aides have sought to straddle the issue, neither accepting it nor ruling it out.

Equally troublesome politically is the issue of a government insurance option. Critics argue it would render private companies unable to compete, and it has emerged as a key sticking point in the Democratic search for a bipartisan plan in the Senate.

All the Republicans on the Senate Finance Committee except one wrote Obama recently telling him he was making a mistake if he insisted on a government option. The exception was Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, who has been trying to find a compromise that would make a government plan available as a last resort if health insurance remains unaffordable for many families even after Congress overhauls the system.

Even before last fall's general election, health care was a key issue in the battle for the Democratic presidential nomination. Obama proposed requiring parents to buy health insurance for children, with a possible fine if parents refused. But he would not insist that all adults buy insurance. □



Supreme Court nominee Sonia Sotomayor, center, walks on crutches on her way to a meeting on Capitol Hill, in Washington, Monday, June 8, 2009. Sotomayor broke her ankle Monday morning in an airport stumble, then boarded her flight as scheduled and made the roughly hourlong trip to Washington to meet with senators who will vote on her confirmation.

Associated Press

SUPREME COURT

Continued from Page B1

The federal appeals court judge, who has been keeping up a busy set of appointments with lawmakers, tripped while rushing for her plane in New York's LaGuardia Airport. The White House said she suffered a small fracture to her right ankle.

Sotomayor was keeping her six appointments with senators despite the injury. She entered the Capitol for a meeting with Sen. Charles E. Grassley, R-Iowa, on crutches, wearing a white cast covered at the foot with a black soft boot. Asked how she was feeling, Sotomayor said, "I feel fine, thank you."

The injury provided a light note to an otherwise high-intensity round of meetings that are part job interview for Sotomayor, part preview of a pressure-filled set of confirmation hearings.

Sen. Mary L. Landrieu, a Democrat, signed Sotomayor's cast during their session. Her fellow Louisianan, Republican Sen. David Vitter, had a bag of ice and a pillow on hand when the judge arrived at his office, telling her to "please be seated and relax."

"I hope you all note that some Republicans are empathetic too," Vitter quipped to reporters. □

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Dropped charges protested in Texas dragging case

JEFF CARLTON

Associated Press Writer

PARIS, Texas (AP) — Protesters vowed Monday to get the U.S. Department of Justice to review the dismissal of state murder charges against two white men in the dragging death of a black friend.

About 150 people attended a rally outside a Texas courthouse, expressing anger over what they call a pattern of unequal justice for whites and blacks in Paris, about 90 miles northeast of Dallas.

“A black man’s life is still not worth a white man’s life in Paris, Texas,” said activist Anthony Bond.

The protest was organized last week after a special prosecutor, citing a lack of evidence, had charges dismissed against Shannon Finley and Charles Crostley, who were accused of killing their friend Brandon McClelland. His mangled body was found Sept. 16 on a country road, and authorities say he’d been

dragged from a vehicle more than 70 feet.

The two men, who maintain their innocence, were released Thursday with no restrictions after more than eight months in jail.

Authorities had arrested Finley and Crostley, working on the theory that the trio went on a late night beer run into Oklahoma from their county, where alcohol is illegal. On the way back, authorities alleged, the men argued over whether Finley was too drunk to drive. McClelland got out of the truck to walk home, and Finley ran over him.

But investigators working for the defendants’ attorneys located a gravel truck driver who last month gave a sworn statement acknowledging he might have accidentally run over McClelland. Shook said it was unlikely the trucker would face charges, but that the investigation into McClelland’s death would continue.

The racial implications



Bobby McCleary, father of Brandon McClelland, speaks to supporters over a bullhorn during a rally outside the Lamar County Courthouse in Paris, Texas Monday, June 8, 2009. Protesters outside a Texas courthouse were expressing anger over the dismissal of murder charges against two white men in the dragging death of a black man. (

Associated Press

Work to start on \$8.7 billion NY-NJ tunnel

VICTOR EPSTEIN

Associated Press Writer

NORTHBERGEN, New Jersey (AP) — Construction began Monday on the America’s largest transportation project, an \$8.7 billion rail tunnel into New York City that’s expected to reduce the time it takes commuters to reach Manhattan from New Jersey by an average of 40 minutes. The 8.8 mile-long fourth rail tunnel under the Hudson River will require the removal of 2 million cubic yards of rock and soil — roughly a third as much as the Hoover Dam — and will take eight years to build. “This is an incredible project,” New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine told a crowd of 750 people at a ceremony Monday in northern New Jersey. “In today’s economic recession, it

has the added value of creating 6,000 new jobs day in and day out for the next six or seven years.” The new tunnel will add two more rail lines, thereby speeding the work commute from New Jersey to New York City by increasing the number of NJ Transit passenger trains passing under the river during peak rush hour from 23 to 48. Federal Transit Administration chief Peter Rogoff said the federal government’s \$3 billion contribution to the project is the largest ever by his agency. Officials estimate the project will create 6,000 construction jobs and add another 45,000 new jobs after completion in 2017. Rogoff said the tunnel will shorten rail trips in densely populated New

recalled the murder of James Byrd, a black man who was chained by his ankles to a pickup by three white men and dragged to death in 1998 in the East Texas town of Jasper. Two of the killers are on death

row, and the third is serving life in prison.

Protesters on Monday included members of the Nation of Islam and the New Black Panther Party. Some carried signs that

read “Where is the Justice for Brandon?.”

Protesters and a self-described Ku Klux Klansman had a heated argument but there were no arrests. □



Sen. Frank R. Lautenberg (D-NJ), New Jersey Gov. Jon Corzine and Sen. Robert Menendez (D-NJ) lift dirt during a groundbreaking ceremony in North Bergen, N.J. for the Mass Transit Tunnel project, the largest transit public works project in America, Monday, June 8, 2009.

Associated Press

York City and northern New Jersey, which have some of the nation’s longest commutes. □



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U.S. Marines fan out across dangerous southern Afghanistan



In this photo released by Brazil's Air Force, a helicopter carries debris belonging to the Air France Flight 447 in the Atlantic Ocean, Sunday, June 7, 2009. Four more bodies were found Sunday bobbing in the ocean near the spot where an Air France jet is believed to have crashed a week ago, bringing the total number of bodies plucked from the water to six, Brazil's military said.

Associated Press

CHRIS BRUMMITT

Associated Press Writer

CAMP LEATHERNECK, Afghanistan (AP) — Teams of builders worked through dust storms Monday to expand a base for a brigade of U.S. Marines now fanning out across southern Afghanistan to change the course of a war claiming American lives faster than ever before.

Some 10,000 Marines have poured into Afghanistan in the last six weeks, the military said Monday, transforming this once small base in the heart of the country's most violent province, Helmand, into a desert fortress.

The statement to embedded journalists, including a team from The Associated Press, was the first confirmation that the military has fully deployed the first wave of 21,000 additional troops President Barack Obama ordered to Afghanistan this year to help stanch an increasingly violent Taliban insurgency.

The 2nd Marine Expeditionary Brigade, normally based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, will battle the Taliban as well as train and fight alongside Afghan security forces.

"This is where the fight is, in Afghanistan," said 1st Sgt. Christopher Watson, who like many of the troops was most recently deployed in Iraq. "We are here to get the job done."

The United States and its allies invaded Afghanistan in late 2001 because the country's extremist Taliban leaders were sheltering Osama bin Laden and al-Qaida, the Islamic terrorist group behind the Sept. 11 attacks.

The forces quickly defeated the Taliban, pushing the militants out of Kabul and their southern base in Kandahar. But a guerrilla war, which turned dangerously violent in 2006, has bedeviled the international coalition and Afghan government.

While the insurgency is active across much of the country, its stronghold remains in

Helmand. The province is home to the world's largest opium-poppy growing region and borders Pakistan, where commanders say the Taliban leadership supplies money and recruits.

The Taliban has become entrenched in Helmand because of a lack of international and Afghan troops. Several thousand British forces have engaged in heavy fighting in Helmand for much of the past three years. Last year, a much smaller U.S. Marine force joined them, helping to clear the town of Garmser of insurgents.

"We are not under the impression that is going to be easy," said Capt. Bill Pelletier, a Marine spokesman. "They are an adaptive enemy."

A dust storm whipped across Camp Leatherneck early Monday but did little to stop the pace of construction. Hard-hatted workers put up wooden structures to house command centers and dining facilities, while cranes dropped blast walls close to the rows of air-conditioned tents housing troops.

The Marines are slowly spreading out to smaller bases in an area of operations about 7,000 square miles (18,000 square kilometers), said Pelletier, adding there already have been several engagements with insurgents. The military has yet to announce any losses in combat suffered by the brigade.

An Army brigade of some 7,000 troops will follow this summer along with 4,000 forces to train Afghan security forces.

The surge will bring American troop levels from about 55,000 now to more than 68,000 by the end of 2009 — about half of the nearly 140,000 troops currently in Iraq.

The buildup has led to comparisons with Iraq, where an influx of troops in 2007 is credited with helping to reduce violence.

But unlike Iraq, where the U.S. plans to phase out its role by 2012, the military

envision a long-term presence in Afghanistan.

Adding troops in a country with a history of resistance to foreign forces risks increasing Afghans' resentment, which in turn fuels the insurgency.

There are also fears that the surge will push the Taliban to other parts of the country — or even across the border to Pakistan, where they could further destabilize that nuclear-armed country.

The bulk of the Marines, about 7,300, remain at Leatherneck and are training for missions — or "sharpening the sword" as one young Marine put it. Several said Marine commanders have drilled into them the need to respect the local culture and not barge into villages, kicking down doors and alienating residents whose support they need to win the war.


"They have told us to be more friendly with the locals," said Lance Cpl. John McCall, who was marching in full battle gear around the base with two buddies to get in shape. "We are not to shoot first and ask questions later."

Commanders warn that U.S. deaths are likely to increase this summer, the traditional fighting season in Afghanistan.


At least 70 U.S. troops have been killed in Afghanistan this year, according to an AP count, a 75 percent increase over the 40 U.S. troop deaths through the first week in June last year. A record 151 American forces died in Afghanistan in 2008.

Joanna Nathan, an Afghanistan specialist at the International Crisis Group, said more troops were needed to improve security so that the task of building Afghan government structures and other infrastructure projects could happen more quickly.

"There needs to be a lot of work in the background," she said. "You are never going to shoot the last insurgent and then leave. The will in Western capitals to remain in Afghanistan will not last forever, so there is a need for urgency." □



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		matinee:	1:30	3:40	late show: 12:15

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Will US send envoy after NKorea jails reporters?

MATTHEW LEE

Associated Press Writers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— The sentencing of two American journalists to 12 years' hard labor in North Korea on Monday sets the stage for possible negotiations with the reclusive nation for their release — perhaps involving an envoy from the United States.

New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, who helped win the release of Americans from North Korea in the 1990s, said he was "ready to do anything" the Obama administration asked. Another possible negotiator, if the U.S. government approved, is former Vice President Al Gore, who founded the TV venture that both reporters work for.

A senior Obama administration official said Richardson and Gore had been in contact with the White House and State Department about potential next steps, including possibly sending an envoy to try to negotiate the release of Euna Lee, 26, and Laura Ling, 32, both of whom work for Gore's Current TV.

But the official stressed that no decisions had been made on how to proceed and said neither Gore nor Richardson had been asked to go. The official spoke on condition of anonymity due to the diplomatic sensitivity of the situation.

Asked Monday if the United States will send an envoy to the North, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said the Obama administration is "pursuing every possible approach that we can consider in order to persuade the North Koreans to release them and send these young women home."

She stressed that the reporters' case and Washington's efforts to punish North Korea for its recent nuclear test are "entirely separate matters."

"We think the imprisonment, trial and sentencing of Laura and Euna should be viewed as a humanitarian matter," Clinton said. "We hope that the North Koreans will grant clemency and deport them." The isolated North is probably



A South Korean man watches a TV broadcasting news about two American journalists detained in North Korea at the Seoul Railway Station, in South Korea, Monday, June 8, 2009. North Korea's top court convicted the journalists and sentenced them to 12 years in a prison Monday, intensifying the reclusive nation's confrontation with the United States. The headline reads "North Korea convicted two American journalists and sentenced them to 12 years in a prison."

less interested in having the women sent to its gulag, where poorly fed inmates often do backbreaking work in factories, coal mines and rice paddies.

Instead, Pyongyang will likely try to use them as bargaining chips in an increasingly tense standoff with the U.S. over the North's recent nuclear and missile tests.

President Barack Obama "is deeply concerned by the reported sentencing of the two American citizen journalists by North Korean authorities, and we are engaged through all possible channels to secure their release," said deputy White House spokesman William Burton.

Richardson, who also traveled to North Korea in 2007 to bring back the remains of Americans killed in the Korean War, said the journalists were part of a "high-stakes poker game" North Korea is playing. Now that the legal process has been completed, he said he thinks talks for their release can begin, with some kind of a political pardon as a goal.

"In previous instances where I was involved in negotiating, you could not get this started until the legal process had

ended," he said on NBC's "Today" show.

Richardson said officials of the Obama administration had been in contact with him for his thoughts on how to proceed. Asked by CNN if he would be willing to go to Pyongyang on behalf of the Obama administration, Richardson replied: "If they asked for my help, of course, I'd be ready to do anything. But this is something that is very sensitive at this stage." He said the sentence was harsher than expected but added that the fact that espionage was not mentioned was a good sign.

He said North Korea so far has not, at least publicly, tried to tie this incident to differences with Washington over its nuclear program and the recent series of missile tests that it has conducted. He also said he has not seen particularly bellicose rhetoric from Pyongyang on the issue of the two women. For several days, rumors have been swirling that Gore would fly to North Korea to negotiate the reporters' release. But Gore has not commented on a possible trip and has stayed silent about the case in general.

Victor Cha, who served as a senior Asia adviser on former President George W. Bush's National Security Council, said a high-level envoy, such as Gore, should be sent to negotiate the release of the Americans.

"North Koreans care a great deal about public face, and sending someone of Gore's stature would be an eminently credible humanitarian mission," he said.

North Korea wants to be treated like a legitimate nuclear state and hopes to draw Washington into direct negotiations about normalizing relations. Washington has refused to endorse such a status for an unpredictable nation with a history of terrorism, ripping up agreements and sharing its nuclear know-how with nations hostile to America.

Pyongyang is believed to be preparing another long-range missile test at a new launchpad. On Monday, North Korea warned fishing boats to stay away from the east coast, Japan's coast guard said, feeding concerns that more missile tests are being planned.

The U.N. has also been debating a new resolution

to punish the North for its second nuclear test May 25. Pyongyang followed the test with a barrage of missile launches.

The case gives the two sides an excuse to talk, with the U.S. possibly sending a special envoy, said Kim Yong-hyun, a professor at Seoul's Dongguk University.

"I think the North is going to try to use the reporters to facilitate relations with the U.S.," said Kim, adding that he didn't think the women would be mistreated and would even be kept separate from North Korean inmates.

"The sentence doesn't mean much because the issue will be resolved diplomatically in the end," Kim said.

The journalists were arrested March 17 near the China-North Korea border, and it's unclear whether they tried to sneak into the North or if aggressive border guards crossed into Chinese territory and grabbed them, as has happened before. A cameraman and their local guide escaped.

The North accused the reporters of unspecified "hostile acts" and illegally entering the country, but the formal charges against them were unclear. Their trial began Thursday and foreigners weren't allowed to observe the proceedings.

The North's official news agency said Monday the women committed a "grave crime" and would be sentenced to 12 years of "reform through labor."

State Department spokesman Ian Kelly said U.S. officials do not know details of the charges against the two or the exact location of their confinement.

"We plan to explore all possible channels," Kelly said without being specific. "As we have all along, we call on the North Korean authorities to release the two young ladies."

Ling's father, Doug Ling, told The Associated Press at his home in the Sacramento, California, suburb of Carmichael that the family will "keep a low-profile until we hear something better about the situation." □

Shell settles human rights suit for \$15.5M

CHRIS KAHN

AP Energy Writer

NEW YORK (AP)

— Royal Dutch Shell agreed to a \$15.5 million settlement Monday to end a lawsuit alleging that the oil giant was complicit in the executions of activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and other civilians by Nigeria's former military regime. Shell, which continues to operate in Nigeria, said it agreed to settle the lawsuit in hopes aiding the "process of reconciliation." But Europe's largest oil company acknowledged no wrongdoing in the 1995 hanging deaths of six people, including Saro-Wiwa.

"This gesture also acknowledges that, even though Shell had no part in the violence that took place, the plaintiffs and others have suffered," Malcolm Brinded, Shell's Executive Director Exploration & Production, said in a statement.

The lawsuit in U.S. District Court in New York claimed Shell colluded with the country's former military government to silence environmental and human rights activists in the country's Ogoni region. The oil-rich district sits in the southern part of Nigeria and is roughly the size of San Antonio. Shell started operating there in 1958.

The primary complaint against Shell focused on activities by the company's subsidiary, Shell Petroleum Development Co. of Nigeria Limited.

The lawsuit said in the 1990s, Shell officials helped furnish Nigerian police with weapons, participated in security sweeps of the area, and asked government troops to shoot villagers protesting the construction of a pipeline that later leaked oil.

The plaintiffs also say Shell helped the government capture and hang Saro-



In this May 27, 2009 file photo, members of Nigeria's Ogoni community and their supporters rally to raise awareness of the trial of Royal Dutch Shell, in New York. Royal Dutch Shell settled a lawsuit Wednesday, June 3, that accused the oil giant of playing a role in the executions of activist Ken Saro-Wiwa and other civilians by Nigeria's former military regime.

Wiwa, John Kpuinen, Saturday Doobee, Felix Nuate, Daniel Gbokoo and Dr. Barinem Kiobel on Nov. 10, 1995.

Saro-Wiwa, leader of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People, led rallies against Shell. He blamed the company for myriad oil spills and gas fires in the Ogoni region.

"I think he would be happy with this," Saro-Wiwa's 40-year-old son, Ken Saro-Wiwa Jr., said in a telephone interview from London. Though Shell denied any wrongdoing, "the fact that they would have to settle is a victory for us."

Besides compensating the families, the money from Shell will pay for years of legal fees. And a large chunk of the settlement — roughly half — will create a trust that will invest in social programs in the country including educational endowments, agricultural development, support for small enterprise and adult literacy programs.

Altogether, the settlement will have a negligible affect on Shell's shareholders, amounting to less than one-hundredth of a percent of

Shell's annual revenue. It's comparable to the annual cost of renting one of the supertankers that Shell uses to deliver Nigerian oil to other countries.

"Is it enough to bring back the lives of our clients? Obviously not," said Jenny Green, a lawyer for the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York who helped file the lawsuit in 1996.

But Green said it will send a message to Shell and other multinationals that operate in developing countries.

"You can't commit human rights violations as a part of doing business," she said. "A corporation can't act with impunity. And we think there is accountability in this settlement."

Ralph Steinhardt, a George Washington professor of international law, said he doesn't think Shell got off easy with the settlement.

"It's not the size of the company that's the right measure here," Steinhardt said. "At the end of the day, it's to get some acknowledgment of the plaintiffs and their suffering and the role of the company." The Shell

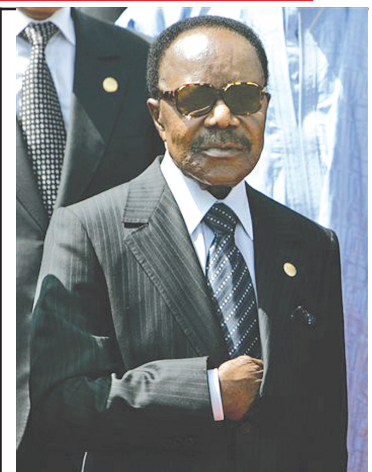
settlement ends one of several legal battles brought against energy companies by indigenous peoples where they operate.

Villagers in Indonesia are suing Exxon Mobil, claiming it employed guards who kidnapped, tortured and murdered civilians. Chevron awaits a potential \$27 billion judgment in Ecuador stemming from a dispute over its role in environmental damages in the Amazon rain forest.

At least one additional lawsuit alleging human rights abuses by Shell in Nigeria is pending in U.S. District Court in New York. Fourteen years after the Nigerian activists were hanged, Saro-Wiwa said he thinks Shell has started to acknowledge that it needs a "social license" to operate in a foreign countries. For example, the company has agreed to pay for a study of environmental damage that drilling has caused the Ogoni region.

"They have a long way to go," he said. "But at least they realize some of their actions can come back to haunt them as we saw in New York." □

Associated Press



In this Friday July 27, 2007 file photo, President of Gabon Omar Bongo, right, waves to bystanders from an open car during a motorcade with French President Nicolas Sarkozy, in Libreville, Gabon. President Omar Bongo of Gabon has died of cardiac arrest in a Barcelona hospital, the country's prime minister said Monday June 8, 2009. Bongo was 73. Doctors announced Bongo's death at around 2:30 pm, Prime Minister Jean Eyeghe Ndong said in a statement issued at the Quiron Clinic, where Bongo was admitted last month.

Associated Press

Gabon's president dies after 42 years in power

RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
Associated Press Writers

LIBREVILLE, Gabon (AP) — Omar Bongo, the world's longest-serving president whose 42-year rule of Gabon was a throwback to an era when Africa was ruled by "Big Men," died Monday. He was 73. The government responded to Bongo's death at a hospital in Spain by closing Gabon's international airport and the nation's land and sea borders. Security forces took up positions in front of government buildings and electrical installations in Libreville, the capital.

People rushed home after the news was announced, causing traffic jams. Some residents could be seen hurrying out with empty bags, apparently to stock up on food in advance of possible store closures.

Gabon's constitution calls for the Senate leader to assume power and organize presidential elections within 90 days of Bongo's death. But there has been speculation that one of Bongo's sons — who is now defense minister — would try to seize power upon his father's death, as happened in nearby Togo. □

Air France tail found; some pilots refusing to fly

BRADLEY BROOKS

Associated Press Writers

RECIFE, Brazil (AP) — A large tail section of a jetliner bearing Air France's trademark red and blue stripes was recovered from the Atlantic Ocean Monday, helping narrow the hunt for "black boxes" that could explain what brought down Flight 447.

And some high-tech help is on the way — two U.S. Navy devices capable of picking up the flight recorders' emergency beacons far below on the ocean floor. What caused the Airbus A330-200 to plunge into the middle of the ocean on May 31 with 228 people on board might not be known until those black boxes are found.

But some Air France pilots aren't waiting for a definitive answer. With investigators looking at the possibility that external speed monitors iced over and gave dangerously false readings to cockpit computers in a thunderstorm, a union is urging pilots to refuse to fly Airbus A330 and A340 planes unless the monitors — known as Pitot tubes — are replaced.

An internal memo sent to Air France pilots Monday and obtained by The Associated Press urges them to refuse to fly unless at least two of the three Pitot sensors on each plane have been replaced. The instruments have drawn attention because of other incidents in which the monitors have iced over at high altitudes.

The leader of another pilots' union, however, said Monday that Pitot troubles probably didn't cause the Flight 447 disaster.

Searchers must move quickly to find answers in the cockpit voice and data recorders, because acoustic pingers on the boxes begin to fade 30 days after crashes.

While large pieces of plane debris — along with 16 bodies — has helped narrow the search, it remains a daunting task in waters up to 1.5 miles (2.5 kilometers) deep and an ocean floor marked by rugged mountains.

"Finding the debris helps because you can eliminate

a large part of the ocean," said U.S. Air Force Col. Willie Berges, chief of the U.S. military liaison office in Brazil and commander of the American military forces supporting the search operation.

But ocean currents over the eight days since the disaster have pushed floating wreckage far and wide, complicating the search, Berges said. "In the sense that as the debris drifts away, you're not sure exactly where the black boxes or other parts of the aircraft are on the bottom of the ocean."

The U.S. Navy has helped locate black boxes in difficult situations before: pings from an Adam Air jet that crashed Jan. 1, 2007, off Indonesia's coast were picked up 25 days later by a navy team.

The two towed pinger locators the U.S. is sending are expected to arrive in Brazil late Monday and will be dropped into the ocean near the debris field by Thursday, Berges said. The search is focusing on several hundred square miles (square kilometers) roughly 400 miles (640 kilometers) northeast of the Fernando de Noronha islands off Brazil's northern coast.

The listening devices themselves are five-foot long and weigh 70 pounds. One will be towed by a Brazilian ship, the other by a French vessel, slowly trawling in a grid pattern across the search area. The devices can detect emergency beacons to a depth of 20,000 feet (6,100 meters). Cables attached to the devices lead to on-board computers, enabling a 10-person team that accompanies each device to listen for pings and to visually see them on a screen, like a radar spotting objects in air.

The French nuclear attack submarine *Emeraude*, arriving later this week, also will try to find the acoustic pings, military spokesman Christophe Prazuck said.

If the pings are located, French deep-water unmanned subs aboard the oceanographic survey ship *Pourquoi Pas* will attempt to retrieve the boxes from the ocean floor.

This area of the Atlantic Ocean is littered with floating



In this photo released by Brazil's Air Force, Brazil's Navy sailors recover debris from the missing Air France jet at the Atlantic Ocean, Monday, June 8, 2009. A U.S. Navy team was flying to Brazil on Monday with high-tech underwater listening devices to help the search for the black boxes from an Air France plane that crashed into the Atlantic Ocean.

Associated Press

garbage, vexing the initial search effort. Days after the plane went down, the weather let up and bodies began to surface, giving searchers more to go on.

Sixteen bodies were recovered Saturday and Sunday about 45 miles (70 kilometers) from where the jet was last heard from. Brazilian military officials said their earlier announcement of 17 was incorrect.

Searchers also spotted two airplane seats and debris with Air France's logo, and recovered dozens of structural components from the plane. They had already recovered jet wing fragments, and said hundreds of personal items believed to be from passengers were plucked from the water. President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said Brazil's military would do all it can to recover bodies for grieving families. "During this painful time it's not going to resolve the problem, but it is an immense comfort to know they can bury their loved ones," he said on his national radio program Monday.

France is leading the investigation into the cause, while Brazil focuses on the recovery of bodies and wreckage. The *Ventose*, a French military frigate now

operating under Brazilian command, has brought aboard seven of the 16 bodies and about 30 pieces of debris that "most probably come from the plane," Prazuck said.

Brazil says the search area lies southeast of the

jet's last transmission — automatic messages signaling catastrophic electrical failure and loss of cabin pressure. The messages mean Flight 447 likely broke apart in turbulent weather while flying from Rio de Janeiro to Paris. □

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SPORTS

Aruba TODAY

NBA Playoffs

Lakers win 101-96 in Game 2 OT

Lead series 2-0

TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Kobe Bryant and the Los Angeles Lakers made the most of their second chance Sunday, beating Orlando 101-96 in overtime to take a 2-0 lead in the NBA finals series. Orlando rookie Courtney Lee missed a potential winning layup as regulation ended, forcing the game into overtime. Pau Gasol scored seven points in overtime as the Lakers, so dominant in a 25-point win in the series opener, survived to win by five points over the Magic in Game 2.

"There is a sense of relief because they played very well," Lakers coach Phil Jackson said. "There's no doubt they had every opportunity or chance to win."

If Orlando doesn't come back



and win a game in the series, Lee's miss may go down as one of the biggest gaffes in finals history.

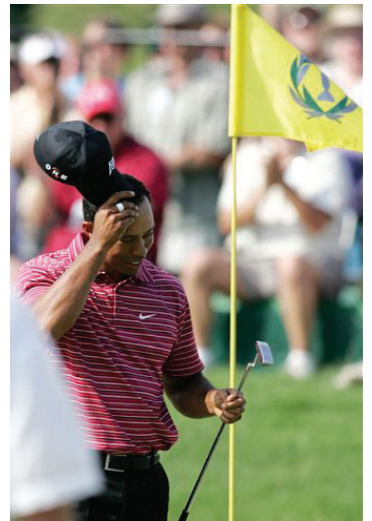
He had a chance to give the Magic its first finals win, but misfired. "We missed it. I don't know what else to say," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said. "We executed well, Hedo (Turkoglu) made a great pass. I'm not trying to be a pain ... Hedo made a great pass and (Lee) just missed it."

Orlando may not get a better shot to beat the Lakers.

"We blew a lot of assignments tonight — a lot of assignments — and we still managed to get a win," Bryant said.

When it was finally over, Derek Fisher and the Lakers jogged to the locker room, smiling and high-fiving fans along the way.

Continued on Page B12



Tiger Woods takes off his cap after sinking a birdie putt on the 18th green during the final round of the Memorial golf tournament Sunday, June 7, 2009 in Dublin, Ohio.

Associated Press

Tiger Woods takes a trip to Bethpage Black

FARMINGDALE, New York (AP) — Tiger Woods returned to the Black Course at Bethpage on Monday, tuning up in preparation for his U.S. Open title defense.

Woods made a detour on his way home from winning the Memorial in Ohio a day earlier, playing 18 holes with swing coach Hank Haney.

Newsday reported that several dozen golfers who planned to play at Bethpage State Park's four other courses spied the world's No. 1 player and immediately pulled out cell-phone cameras. Woods planned to return home to Florida later Monday and practice on his home course at Isleworth leading to the Open, which is June 18-21.

Woods won last year's Open at Torrey Pines in a 19-hole playoff against Rocco Mediate. He won the U.S. Open in 2002, the last time it was held at Bethpage Black, and was the only player to finish under par. The Black Course has been lengthened to 7,426 yards since. It features graduated rough that should allow players to reach the green instead of hacking out to the fairway. □

MLS Roundup

Twellman scores 100th as Revolution rout Red Bulls

FOXBOROUGH, Massachussets (AP) — Taylor Twellman became the fifth player in MLS history with 100 career goals when he scored a pair in the second half to lead the New England Revolution to a 4-0 victory over the New York Red Bulls on Sunday.

Twellman, playing his second match of the season after being sidelined with a neck injury, went on as a substitute to start the second half and didn't take long to reach the milestone.

He scored his first goal of the year in the 57th minute with a header off a cross from Sharlie Joseph to give New England a 3-0 lead.

Seven minutes later, Twellman shot under Red Bulls goalkeeper Jon Conway.

New England entered the match having scored a league-low 10 goals but scored four times in a 17-minute span against the Red Bulls.

New York's winless streak on the road reached 19 matches.

Dallas 2, San Jose 2

At Frisco, Texas, Kenny Cooper scored in the 87th minute to help FC Dallas salvage a 2-2 draw at home against the San Jose Earthquakes.

Arturo Alvarez had given last-place San Jose a 2-1 lead in the 82nd minute after he beat defender Marcelo Saragosa and sent a curling left-foot shot into the top right corner of the net.



New England Revolution's Taylor Twellman, center right, celebrates his first goal of the game and 100th career goal, with Shalrie Joseph, center left, as Emmanuel Osei, left, and Jay Heaps, right, come in during the second half of an MLS soccer game against the New York Red Bulls on Sunday, June 7, 2009, in Foxborough, Mass. The Revolution won 4-0.

Associated Press

Dallas scored the equalizer 5 minutes later when Brek Shea passed to Cooper, who drove it in from six yards.

Dallas coach Schellas Hyndman missed the match while serving a one-game suspension. Hyndman was ejected for "irresponsible behavior" in the 81st minute of the previous match against Chicago when he shout at fans after he was hit by a bottle thrown from the stands. □

NL Roundup

Reynolds leads Diamondbacks to win in 18th inning

The Associated Press

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Mark Reynolds hit a three-run homer off infielder Josh Wilson with two outs in the 18th inning Sunday, giving the Arizona Diamondbacks a 9-6 win over the San Diego Padres in the longest major league game this season.

The Padres were held hitless through nine extra innings by four relievers. Their only baserunners in extras came on three walks. The game took 5 hours, 45 minutes.

San Diego scored five in the ninth and tied it at 6 on David Eckstein's first career pinch-hit homer, a three-run shot, with two outs off Chad Qualls.

The Padres used all their relievers and had starter Chad Gaudin — the loser in Friday night's series opener — pitch the 16th and 17th innings before turning to Wilson in the 18th for his third career relief appearance.

Wilson (0-1) was claimed off waivers from Arizona on May 15, four days after he pitched a scoreless inning for the Diamondbacks against Cincinnati.

Leo Rosales (1-0) worked 3 1-3 innings for the win.

At Los Angeles, Ryan Howard, Carlos Ruiz and Shane Victorino homered as Philadelphia beat Los Angeles to split a four-game series between teams with the top two records in baseball.

Antonio Bastardo (2-0) allowed two runs and seven hits over five-plus innings to win his second major league start.

Ruiz had three RBIs. He and Victorino homered against Randy Wolf (3-2). The left-hander, who pitched for the Phillies from 1999-06, gave up six runs and eight hits in 6 1-3 innings. The loss was his first in 12 starts since April 7, his season debut.

At Atlanta, Chipper Jones hit two homers among four hits to help the Braves rally past Milwaukee.

Ryan Braun hit two two-run homers and Mike Cameron also had a two-run shot for the NL Central-leading Brewers.



Arizona Diamondbacks' Mark Reynolds, right, is congratulated by third base coach Chip Hale after he hit a three-run homer off San Diego Padres pitcher Josh Wilson during the 18th inning of a baseball game Sunday, June 7, 2009, in San Diego. The Diamondbacks won 9-6 in 18 innings.

Associated Press

Rookie Tommy Hanson retired the first 10 Milwaukee batters before giving up seven runs, six earned, in six innings.

The Braves trailed 7-5 before scoring three runs in the eighth off Carlos Villanueva (2-4).

Brian McCann's pinch-hit double drove in Martin Prado. Nate McLouth added a tying double and scored the go-ahead run on Yunel Escobar's single to left.

Eric O'Flaherty (1-0) pitched a scoreless eighth for Atlanta. Mike Gonzalez pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

At Miami, Tim Lincecum pitched three-hit ball into the eighth to win his fifth consecutive decision as San Francisco beat Florida.

Bengie Molina had two RBIs to back Lincecum (5-1), who went 7 1-3 innings. He also doubled and scored.

The NL Cy Young Award winner was lifted after yielding Chris Coghlan's two-run homer. Brian Wilson worked the ninth for his 15th save in 18 opportunities.

The Giants sat through a rain delay for the fifth straight day.

After the start was delayed 1 hour, 38 minutes, they hit six doubles and won for the fourth time in five games.

At St. Louis, Ubaldo Jimenez threw eight innings of four-hit ball and Paul Phillips drove in three runs for Colorado.

Jimenez (4-6) allowed two runs, struck out nine and walked one. Phillips had a career-best four hits, including his first homer since 2006.

The Rockies have scored 38 runs in their first four-game winning streak of the year and are 6-4 under manager Jim

Tracy after going 18-28 under Clint Hurdle.

Albert Pujols had a rare two-run sacrifice fly in the first inning for the Cardinals, who have totaled three runs and nine hits in the last two games. Joel Pineiro (5-6) allowed three runs in five innings after skipping a start due to back spasms. At Cincinnati, Alfonso Soriano led off the 14th inning with a home run to lead Chicago to the victory.

Soriano hit Mike Lincoln's first pitch into the seats in right-center for his 14th homer of the season. He was 0 for 5 before the clutch drive.

Mike Fontenot added an RBI single off Lincoln (1-1) and Reed Johnson doubled in a run for the Cubs, who led 3-1 after six innings.

Rookie David Patton (2-1) pitched the 13th to get the win and Angel Guzman finished for his first career save. Patton got Brandon Phillips to line out to right with runners on first and second to end a Cincinnati threat.

In other NL games it was, Chicago Cubs 6, Cincinnati 3, 14 innings; Atlanta 8, Milwaukee 7; N.Y. Mets 7, Washington 0; Houston 6, Pittsburgh 4; Colorado 7, St. Louis 2; Arizona 9, San Diego 6, 18 innings; San Francisco 3, Florida 2; and Philadelphia 7, L.A. Dodgers 2. □



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AL Roundup

Cruz leads Rangers to 6-3 win over Red Sox

The Associated Press

BOSTON (AP) — Nelson Cruz homered, tripled and doubled, helping the Texas Rangers beat the Boston Red Sox 6-3 on Sunday for their first series win at Fenway Park in 12 years.

Texas took two of three in a matchup of AL division leaders. Boston dropped a half-game behind the New York Yankees in the AL East.

Cruz's 17th homer and 10th in his last 17 games drove in Texas' final run. Cruz hit a solo shot in the seventh off Hideki Okajima that ended Boston's bullpen scoreless streak at 12 innings.

Cruz is tied with Tampa Bay's Carlos Pena and Yankees slugger Mark Teixeira for the AL lead in homers.

The Rangers hadn't won a series at Fenway Park since a

three-game sweep in August 1997.

Vicente Padilla (4-3) allowed two earned runs and four hits in seven innings, rebounding from a poor start against the Yankees last Tuesday. C.J. Wilson pitched the ninth for his fifth save.

Daisuke Matsuzaka (1-4) gave up 10 hits and five runs in 5 2-3 innings for Boston.

Yankees 4, Rays 3

NBA PLAYOFFS

Continued from Page B10

Turkoglu trudged through the tunnel dejected, a towel hanging from his head.

Bryant scored 29 points, Gasol added 24 and 10 rebounds and Lamar Odom 19 points for the Lakers, who won Game 1 by 25 but needed 53 minutes to put away the Magic.

Rashard Lewis scored 34 — 18 in the second quarter alone — and Dwight Howard had 17 points and 16 rebounds for Orlando.

With the score tied at 88-88 in regulation, Lee missed the first of two late-game shots when he drove the lane and missed a contested layup with 10.5 seconds remaining.

The Lakers called time with 9.1 seconds to play, and after Odom caught the inbound pass, he quickly gave it to Bryant, who drove into a crowd. Bryant attempted an off-balance 12-footer, but his shot was blocked from behind by Turkoglu with 1.8 seconds left.

The horn sounded, the clock expired to zeros and Jack Nicholson and the star-studded Staples Center crowd braced for overtime.

But the officials huddled at the scorer's table and decided to put 0.6 seconds back on the clock because Turkoglu grabbed the ball and called timeout.

Turkoglu couldn't find anyone open and was forced to call a timeout. On the Magic's second attempt, Lee got free



on a perfectly executed play and caught Turkoglu's long lob pass as he neared the left side of the basket. But with 7-foot Gasol closing in on him, Lee's shot caromed off the backboard and front of the rim.

Howard dunked in the miss as Lee put his hands behind his head in disbelief and began a long walk back to the bench as his teammates tried to console him. Game 3 is Tuesday night at Orlando's Amway Arena, which will be hosting a finals game for the first time since June 9, 1995.

Fourteen years to the day after the Magic let Game 1 of the 1995 finals against Houston get away when Nick Anderson missed four late free throws, Lee provided another excruciating moment for Orlando.

The Magic, who looked more relaxed than in the opener, will head home thinking about what might have been. They could be tied 1-1, and with the

next three games scheduled in front of their frenzied fans, they could have denied Bryant and the Lakers a 15th title.

Now, in a season of comebacks, they'll need their biggest one. Bryant, who scored 40 in the opener, finished with eight assists and seven turnovers.

Lewis transformed into Orlando's version of Bryant in the second quarter, scoring 18 of the Magic's 20 points to keep them close. The 6-foot-10 forward's size and exceptional range make him an impossible cover, and the Lakers had no answer to stop him.

With Howard unable to get open and Orlando's other shooters still searching for their touch, Lewis carried the scoring load. He made four consecutive 3-pointers to end the half and the Magic, despite shooting just 32 percent, were within 38-35 at the break.

Howard, who was swarmed by the Lakers, made just 1 of 4 shots and had four turnovers.



Texas Rangers' Nelson Cruz tosses his bat as he watches his home run during the seventh inning of their 6-3 win over the Boston Red Sox in a baseball game at Fenway Park in Boston Sunday, June 7, 2009.

Associated Press

At New York, Mariano Rivera bounced back from a poor outing against Tampa Bay as the Yankees rallied for three runs in the eighth inning.

Nick Swisher hit the 100th home run in 28 games at the new Yankee Stadium, helping Joe Girardi earn his 200th win as a manager.

Alfredo Aceves (4-1) pitched two scoreless innings in New York's major league-leading 20th comeback victory this season.

Hideki Matsui beat out a potential double-play grounder to drive in the go-ahead run, then Rivera pitched a perfect ninth for his 13th save — one day after giving up four runs in the ninth inning and taking the loss.

The Yankees took advantage of two crucial walks and a key error by fill-in third baseman Willy Aybar in the eighth to beat reliever Grant Balfour (2-1).

Blue Jays 4, Royals 0

At Toronto, Roy Halladay pitched a seven-hitter to become the first 10-game winner in the majors.

Aaron Hill and Lyle Overbay homered for the Blue Jays, who won two of three in the series.

Halladay (10-1) needed only 97 pitches to record his 43rd career complete game and 12th shutout. He was coming off a career-high 133 pitches in a complete-game victory over the Los Angeles Angels. The right-hander allowed seven singles while winning his seventh straight decision. He struck out six and walked none.

Halladay, the 2003 AL Cy Young Award winner, has gone at least seven innings in all 13 starts.

Kansas City, which snapped an eight-game slide by winning Saturday, has lost 21 of 27.

Overbay extended his hitting streak to 13 games and Hill snapped an 0-for-25 slump as the Blue Jays sent Kyle Davies (2-6) to his fifth straight loss.

Tigers 9, Angels 6
At Detroit, Clete Thomas' grand slam broke an eighth-inning tie as Detroit took advantage of a key error by first baseman Kendry Morales to beat Los Angeles.

The Tigers have won two straight after losing the first four games of their six-game homestand.

Chone Figgins and Juan Rivera homered off Rick Porcello for the Angels, and Bobby Abreu doubled for his 2,000th hit.

Los Angeles led 5-4 going into the bottom of the eighth, but Jose Arredondo (1-3) walked two batters and Jason Bugler walked another. Detroit scored the tying run on Morales' error before Thomas hit his first career slam. Joel Zumaya (2-0) got the win.

Indians 8, White Sox 4

At Chicago, rookies Chris Gimenez and Luis Valbuena hit consecutive homers off former Cleveland ace Bartolo Colon.

In other AL games it was, Detroit 9, L.A. Angels 6; N.Y. Yankees 4, Tampa Bay 3; Toronto 4, Kansas City 0; Texas 6, Boston 3; Cleveland 8, Chicago White Sox 4; Oakland 3, Baltimore 0; and Seattle 4, Minnesota 2.



A doctor assists Rafael Nadal of Spain, during his semifinals match against Novak Djokovic of Serbia, at the Madrid Open Tennis, in Madrid, Saturday, May 16, 2009. (

Associated Press

Nadal having medical tests on knees in Barcelona

BARCELONA, Spain (AP) — Rafael Nadal is having his knees checked by doctors and expects to announce his status for Wimbledon in the coming days.

A posting on Nadal's Web site said the reigning Wimbledon champion is in Barcelona for medical tests Monday and Tuesday. He is expected to make an announcement by Wednesday. Nadal withdrew from this week's Wimbledon tuneup at Queen's Club in London, citing knee trouble. His 31-match winning streak at the French Open ended with a fourth-round loss.

"I have been having some problems in the past months with my knees — that's no secret — that did not allow me to compete always at 100 percent," Nadal said Friday, when he pulled out of the Queen's Club event. "I need to work with my team to recover well, work on my physical condition to be at my top form and get ready for the grass to play at Wimbledon. I hope I can be ready to compete by then."

Wimbledon starts June 22. Last year, Nadal beat Roger Federer at the All England Club in the longest men's championship match in tournament history.

"I was surprised to see him pull out of Queen's, and now the debate that he might pull out of Wimbledon is quite frightening," Federer said Monday in Paris. □

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Brasil listo a apoyar nuevas liberaciones si Colombia lo pide

BOGOTA (Reuters) - Brasil sólo apoyará logísticamente nuevas liberaciones de rehenes secuestrados por las FARC por razones humanitarias y previa solicitud del Gobierno de Colombia, dijo el lunes el canciller Celso Amorim.

Amorim se entrevistó con su homólogo colombiano, Jaime Bermúdez, en la caribeña ciudad de Cartagena en un encuentro en el que instalaron la primera reunión de la comisión bilateral Colombia y Brasil. “Si hay una otra situación en que Brasil pueda ayudar estaremos listos a hacerlo, pero siempre en consulta con el Gobierno colombiano”, dijo Amorim en una conferencia de prensa.

“Somos muy respetuosos de la soberanía de los países y de los gobiernos que han sido elegidos por sus pueblos”, agregó. Brasil apoyó logísticamente en febrero con helicópteros y sus respectivas tripulaciones la liberación de seis *En Perú*

Indígenas llaman a protesta general

BAGUA GRANDE, Perú (Reuters) - Indígenas amazónicos de Perú comenzaron a retornar el lunes a sus aldeas, luego de desafiar al Gobierno neoliberal de Alan García con violentas protestas que dejaron decenas de muertos, mientras los sindicatos llamaban a una jornada nacional de protesta.

Unos 200 indígenas congregados en Bagua Chica, departamento de Amazonas, fueron los primeros en partir hacia sus comunidades y serían seguidos el martes por casi un millar de otros nativos refugiados en un centro católico de Bagua Grande, dijeron sus dirigentes.

El repliegue comenzó al tiempo que organizaciones encabezadas por la mayor central sindical del país, CGTP, convocaban para el jueves 11 una “Jornada Nacional de Lucha”, acentuando la mayor crisis política enfrentada por García, quien completará en julio el tercer año de su segundo mandato quinquenal.

La convocatoria sindical y una dura respuesta de la ministra del Interior, Mercedes Cabanillas, parecían alejar posibilidades de diálogo para superar la crisis desatada por las protestas de los indígenas contra una ley de inversiones que consideran una amenaza para los recursos naturales de la extensa Amazonía. □



El canciller brasileño, Celso Amorim (izquierda en la imagen), junto a su símil colombiano, Jaime Bermúdez, durante una conferencia de prensa en Cartagena, 8 jun 2009. Brasil sólo apoyará logísticamente nuevas liberaciones de rehenes secuestrados por las FARC por razones humanitarias y previa solicitud del Gobierno de Colombia, dijo el lunes el canciller Celso Amorim. REUTERS/Fredy Builes

rehenes que permanecieron secuestrados durante años por las izquierdistas Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC).

El grupo rebelde anunció la entrega de un suboficial

del Ejército secuestrado concretado por la oposición durante más de 11 años, del Gobierno del presidente pero la oferta no se ha Alvaro Uribe a que en

la liberación participe la legisladora del opositor Partido Liberal Piedad Córdoba.

En poder del grupo rebelde aún continúan 22 efectivos de las Fuerzas Armadas que las FARC buscan intercambiar con el Gobierno por cientos de guerrilleros encarcelados. Brasil y Colombia acordaron en marzo, después de la liberación de seis rehenes, desarrollar equipos militares, conducir maniobras conjuntas en la selva y controlar espacio aéreo usado por los traficantes de drogas, lo que despertó cuestionamientos de las FARC.

En el pasado Brasil, que comparte una frontera terrestre de 1.645 kilómetros con Colombia, advirtió que no permitirá la presencia de la guerrilla colombiana en su territorio y amenazó con repelerla militarmente. □

El Papa expresa solidaridad a obispos venezolanos

CIUDAD DEL VATICANO (AP) - El papa Benedicto XVI expresó el lunes su solidaridad a los obispos venezolanos, quienes acusaron al gobierno del presidente Hugo Chávez de agravar la polarización política y aumentar la violencia y la inseguridad.

El pontífice recibió a los obispos de Venezuela que se encuentran en visita “Ad limina apostolorum”, la que cada cinco años deben efectuar los prelados de todo el mundo.

El presidente de la Conferencia Episcopal Venezolana, Ubaldo Ramón Santana Sequera, afirmó que el gobierno del presidente Hugo Chávez ha provocado “una creciente polarización política, ha aumentado la violencia, la inseguridad y el odio, poniendo en serio riesgo la convivencia democrática”.

En su discurso dirigido al Papa, el arzobispo de Maracaibo sostuvo que “en Venezuela se ha impuesto desde hace una década un nuevo proyecto político que lleva por nombre socialismo del siglo XXI, de talante revolucionario, que ha introducido profundas modificaciones en todas las dimensiones de la

vida del país”.

Expresó que ese proyecto ha contado para su implantación con “ingentes ingresos provenientes del petróleo” y que ha causado “crecientes polarizaciones económicas, sociales y culturales”.

El Papa dijo que los retos de los obispos venezolanos que deben afrontar en su labor pastoral son “cada vez más abundantes y difíciles”, que en los últimos tiempos se han incrementado por “una grave crisis económica mundial”. Benedicto XVI les dijo que tienen por delante “una apasionante tarea de evangelización” y recordó que habían iniciado la “Misión para Venezuela”, en línea con la Misión Continental promovida por la V Conferencia General del Episcopado Latinoamericano y del Caribe, en Aparecida. Destacó que la labor que desarrollan los obispos en Venezuela no tiene otro interés que “la difusión de los más genuinos valores cristianos, con vistas también a favorecer la búsqueda del bien común, la convivencia armónica y la estabilidad social”. □

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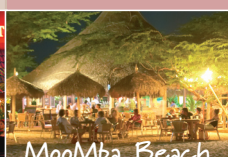
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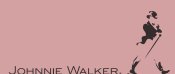


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